

FOGHORN

THE OFFICIAL MONTHLY PUBLICATION OF THE FIRST OSBORNE GROUP

FOG

Vol. IV No. 1

Circulation 13,500

October, 1984

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The First Osborne Group (FOG) has been formed as a users' group for all persons who use or are interested in portable computers. Membership is available to any interested party whether or not they currently own a computer. The *FOGHORN* is published monthly by the First Osborne Group for its members. A subscription providing bulk mail delivery to an address in the U.S. is included with membership in FOG for \$24.00 per year. See chart below for the additional postage required for other locations. Address all inquiries to FOG, P. O. Box 3474, Daly City, CA, 94015-0474.

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FOG MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

Submissions

All articles, letters-to-the-editor, member announcements, classified ads, etc., should be WordStar files, "D" mode (except for program listings), with NO PRINT COMMANDS, and Hyphen-Help OFF. The submissions can be sent on diskette by mail (to FOG, P. O. Box 3474, Daly City, CA, 94015-0474), copied to a FOG diskette at a First FOG of Silicon Valley meeting, delivered (by arrangement) to a FOG officer, or sent by modem to the editor (408-249-5223) or the FOG RCP/M at (415) 755-2030. "By Modem" is by far the most convenient method. If you don't have a modem, get together with a friend who does and send your file. It will be a fun experience. If you send your contribution on disc and specify the disc you would like, we will overwrite your disc with one from the library.

Commercial Advertising

Commercial advertisements must be submitted as camera ready copy.

Size limitations for advertising are as follows:

full page: 7" x 9.5"
half page: 3.5" x 9.5" or 7" x 4.75"
quarter page: 3.5" x 4.75"

Rates, effective with the November, 1984 issue are:

\$500/full page, \$275/half page, \$195/quarter page

For advertisers who wish to run ads in three sequential issues, a special rate is available: Three months at the rate in effect at the time the order is placed and paid in full providing the ads are run in the subsequent three issues. The Board of Trustees will be reviewing the rates monthly and increasing them as the membership grows.

Submission Deadlines

All material is due two months in advance of the month of publication. (October 1st for the December issue). No exceptions can be made. This change is necessary if the *FOGHORN* is to be mailed before the first of the month. Articles which are not month-specific may be submitted at any time. Please, avoid the deadline rush; contribute early.

Back Issues — Reprints

Reprints of ALL back issues are available. Back issues from Volumes 1, 2, and 3 are \$1.50 per issue. Due to the increased size, back issues from Volume 4 are \$2.50 per issue. These charges include shipping. Non U.S. members should include funds for AIRMAIL postage. Donations of additional sums will be gratefully accepted.

Not all issues are of value to new members. Vol. 1 No. 1 (October, 1981) was primarily a greeting and a plea for help in getting this group going. Vol. 2 No. 3 (December, 1982) was a 2 page issue with holiday greetings and an advertisement for SuperGraphics. Mailed with this issue was a copy of the original bylaws which have since been modified several times.

There were 11 issues in Vol. 1 since we put out a combined issue for June and July, 1982. In September, 1984, we put together a consolidated Volume 1. This "Best of Volume 1" omitted all advertising and some of the outdated articles. When the existing inventory of single issue copies is exhausted, they will not be reprinted. The price for the "Best of Volume 1" is \$5.00 which includes shipping.

Each year, issue No. 2 carries an index for the previous Volume. To order, include your account-membership number. Please send the order to FOG, P. O. Box 3474, Daly City, CA, 94015-0474. Orders are shipped once a week.

Copies of Library Disks

FOG members may purchase copies of the library disks from the FOG office if copies cannot be obtained through their local group. Individual disks are \$5.00 each. Bulk orders of 10 or more disks earn a discount of \$1.00 per disk. NO blank disks may be sent into the office to have library disks copied onto them.

Shipping and handling charges are \$5.00 per order or address. This \$5.00 charge must be included with every order. Please be sure to include your account-membership number. Orders without this number will be delayed since no disk orders will be shipped without this number.

For a listing of the programs and files in the library, consult the library column in each issue of Vol. 2 (except No. 3 — December, 1982). The section of the library called - FOG/LIB includes both Jim Woolley's material from the library column and a catalog program which lists the name and disk location of each program (but no descriptions).

In response to the many requests, we have published a typeset guide to the library. This has the descriptions of every disk in the library as well as the guidelines for library use. It is a loose leaf, binder punched volume. This format was selected to facilitate updates. Each copy will be in a portfolio. The price is \$5.00 which includes shipping by 3rd Class (surface mail). Update pages will be offered approximately on a quarterly basis.

Affiliated Members Organizations (AMO) may participate in a monthly update service. Only the librarian of an Affiliated Member Organization may make arrangements to participate in this plan. Contact Gale Rhoades c/o FOG, P. O. Box 3474, Daly City, CA, 94015-0474 (phone 415-755-4140) for further details.

New additions will be sent to participants in the monthly update service as soon as copies can be made.

Rebates to Affiliated Member Organizations

Rebates of 25% of the membership rate (\$24.00) will be made to Affiliated Member Organization (AMO) on behalf of eligible members. To be eligible for the rebate, the name of the group MUST be on the membership form (or check) when the yearly dues (new or renewal) are paid.

No rebates will be made until the Affiliated Member Organization is formally approved by the Board of Trustees.

Application for Affiliated Member Organization status must be made in writing and must be accompanied by a list of the officers — names and FOG membership number — and a signed copy of the group bylaws. For further details, request an AMO information packet.

It is not necessary that a group be affiliated when the member pays the yearly dues and specifies affiliation for that member to be eligible for the rebate.

Rebates will be paid within two weeks of the Board meeting at which the group receives its charter. Subsequent payments will be made on a quarterly basis. Refer all questions about rebates to FOG, P. O. Box 3474, Daly City, CA, 94015.

The Board of Trustees has approved a minor change in the rebate policy for groups who are Affiliated Member Organizations. If the AMO has a checking account, the treasurer may collect membership dues for renewing or new members and forward only \$18.00 (plus appropriate postal surcharges) to FOG. This allows the group to have immediate access to the rebate funds. Please note that the two requirements for this change will be strictly enforced. No personal checks will be accepted.

Change of Address

To request a change of address, send the label from a recent *FOGHORN* together with the new address either in an envelope marked "CHANGE OF ADDRESS" or on a Postal Change of Address Card to FOG, P. O. Box 3474, Daly City, CA, 94015-0474. Please allow at least 30 days for a change of address to be effective.

You should also request that the post office forward any issues that arrive before your address change is posted. You must tell the post office that you will pay forwarding charges since bulk mail is NOT automatically forwarded.

FOG cannot be responsible for additional postage charged because a member delays sending in a change of address.

Additional Postage Charges

Your membership in FOG (\$24.00) covers delivery by Non-profit bulk mail. This rate is only available to members who have bulk mail delivered by the U. S. Postal Service. For those who either cannot receive U.S. bulk mail or prefer first class delivery, please add the appropriate amount (from the chart below) to your payment.

The following is a list of additional charges which must be included with new or renewal memberships effective 9/1/83:

Canada & Mexico (First Class).....	ADD...\$ 6.00
Members with U.S. addresses who prefer First Class delivery to Non-profit bulk mail.....	ADD...\$ 6.00
Central & South America, Caribbean, & Europe (Airmail First Class delivery).....	ADD...\$12.00
Asia, Africa, & Far East (Airmail First Class).....	ADD...\$15.00
Out of North America preferring surface mail — delivery not guaranteed.....	ADD...\$ 6.00

If you want the new rates to take effect for your current membership, you may prorate the above charges for the remaining term of your membership. For each month remaining, send 1/12th of the above rates.

For those with U.S. addresses who elect to continue receiving their *FOGHORN* by Non-profit bulk mail, we have some suggestions for improving delivery. The post office guidelines say that bulk mail can only be traced by the recipient but that delivery in the San Francisco Bay Area should take about seven working days and to the East Coast about 15 working days. We are now taking the bulk mail to the post office before the first of each month. If you are not getting timely delivery of the *FOGHORN* you should contact your local postmaster. If he is unable to improve the situation, there is a complaint form at each post office. We have been assured that all complaints are pursued promptly.

We are now paying return postage for all undeliverable copies of the *FOGHORN*. This allows us to better identify problems. FOG will be responsible for costs incurred remailing a *FOGHORN* only if the member has provided us with the correct address in a timely manner. If we can be of assistance, do not hesitate to drop us a note listing all of the specifics.

Please help

It is essential that you include your account-membership number in all correspondence. Omitting your membership number will needlessly delay shipment of your order. It is not necessary to write a separate check for each different order. Consolidating your requests and sending only one check will save the staff considerable time.

FROM THE FOG

"Our Vacation" — CANADA!

by Frank Morton

Now that school is well underway, you may recall that one of the first bits of homework that was often given as an assignment was on the general theme "What I did on my summer vacation." Well, I am actually going to volunteer just such a course here. However, it will be shown to be a relevant subject if you are patient with me for a few paragraphs.

You need not worry that this personal vacation dialog will occur too often. This was the first real vacation that my wife, I, and I had taken since the summer of '81, just before the delivery of my first Osborne 1! So at that rate this type of travel will not occur any more often than every three years.

We had gone to Hawaii in '81 and thoroughly enjoyed it, but had never been out of the States before. So it was decided Canada (and particularly the Canadian Rockies) was our "must see" destination. In addition, I thought that it would be nice to meet some of our International FOG members. So I popped a short line to the Presidents of the Vancouver, Calgary, and Edmonton AMOs to let them know that we were needed their way.

We began by flying to Vancouver, where we rented a car, met and had a very nice dinner with Jack Brown and his delightful wife Yvonne. As you know Jack is on the Board of Trustees and has been an active member since way back. What you may not realize is that Jack has been instrumental in the creation of an RBBS capability for FOG. He has worked long and hard with Gale and Roy Robinson of OCC to develop the means by which an RBBS and RCP/M can be operated on Osborne 1.

The weekend before we flew to Canada, I timidly took Roy's instructions and modified my newest Blue case Osborne. This consists of cutting several traces on the main logic board, soldering on several jumper wires, and finally soldering three resistors to some ICs on the logic board. Jack had already done this some time earlier with even less explicit instructions. His FOG board #2 has been on the air for some time, as you may be aware. I managed to get the wiring done correctly, but managed to louse up the software. Gale and Jack had to correct that remotely when we were gone.

Thanks to Jack's suggestions beforehand we had an itinerary with reservations for each of our lodgings reserved before we left home. So we headed off through the beautiful Kananaskis Valley on the way to Banff. The signs over the Highway say "Welcome to SuperNatural B.C.", and it is! We saw Lake Louise and spent several days at Banff. The scenery is spectacular to say the least! The local citizens told us that we

arrived with the first sunshine they had seen in about 11 months. They had a long and wet winter.

We were immediately struck with the cleanliness of the towns and cities, and even more with the friendliness of the Canadian people. Even though tourism is a major business, the people were exceptionally friendly. In Vernon, our first stay after Surrey in Vancouver, all the townspeople were out at 8:00 am sweeping of the sidewalks, etc. Banff was jammed with tourists, with good reason as the sights were so magnificent. Our last morning there it rained with snow falling on all the mountain tops (this was the third weekend in July). It was a photographers paradise.

We arrived in Calgary on a Saturday and went to a backyard barbecue with President Rob Keller and some of the Calgary FOG members. It was enjoyable and much appreciated. Sunday we headed on up to Edmonton where the Klondike Days were in full swing. I didn't expect such a large, clean, modern city. I took a chance and looked in the local phone book. I was able to find, call, and meet for a short time with Dave Rand (more about that later). Afterward we met and chatted with the local FOG President Ross Langbell.

Then we headed west to Jasper and beyond. Jasper is much like Banff, only much less crowded (with tourists, etc). The mosquitos at the Tram above Jasper were the largest and hungriest I have ever seen anywhere! We returned to Vancouver via the Fraser Canyon, stopping to have Salmon Chowder for lunch at Hell's Gate.

Back in Vancouver, we couldn't spend much time with Jack — he was busy working backstage with Willy Nelson, Waylon Jennings, Jesse Coulter, etc. (poor Jack being stuck with all those visiting celebrities). I had a nice conversation on the phone with Wayne Russell, Pres. of the Vancouver FOG A.M.O. He was hard at work with his studies at school.

We took the Ferry over to Victoria for a couple days, where the weather was so great we could see the Olympic Mountains in Washington and Mount Baker on the way back on the Ferry. All-in-all it was a magnificent vacation thanks to the people, the weather, and the scenery (I only shot 10+ rolls of 36x film!).

It was a real pleasure to have met Dave Rand in Edmonton. They have an incredible number of Bulletin Boards going up there, and are doing a lot of excellent software generation. By the way, if you are not familiar with the name, Dave Rand is the person who wrote the extremely potent public domain software called NSWP or New Sweep. I heard he had a version of NSWP for CP/M 86. He was kind enough to give me a diskette of it plus some other great software that has been donated to the Library and is available on Sections A1> and B1> of FOG RBBS #5.

Dave has a great attitude about public domain software. His NSWP documentation file (written in WordStar), NSWP.WS, says in part: "... although this program has been placed into the public domain, I retain all copyrights to this program, both in the U.S.A. and in Canada, and pursuant to this, this program MAY NOT BE SOLD BY ANY PARTY unless specifically authorized by the author, Dave Rand, in writing, previous to



the first copy being sold. As well, this program MAY NOT BE INCLUDED IN ANY OTHER PACKAGE FOR SALE, even if this program is indicated as being 'in the public domain'. All of the above applies to both the original as well as derived, or modified copies of the original. Any modified copies of this program MUST NOT have the copyright notice violated, changed or altered." He then asks that any copyright violations be reported to the author.

I told Dave that I personally feel that the software he has created and this handling of the copyright is a major part of what has made FOG and the CP/M Users Groups what they are today. We all owe him and others like him a profound debt of gratitude. We sure hopes that he keeps up the good work and continues to encourage others to donate useful public domain software. His generosity is all the more appreciated when one realizes that he writes software professionally on his job.

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Nominees Needed

by Gale Rhoades

Those who are familiar with FOG's bylaws will recognize that it is time to start preparing for the annual March elections. Since some of the current board members have indicated that they will not be standing for another term on the board, it is particularly important that we have several willing nominees for the board.

In considering whether to seek a seat on the board, you should know that the board has been meeting quarterly and flying in for the meetings those board members who live out of the Bay Area. For board meetings when it is not possible for a member to attend in person, we arrange a conference phone call to allow absent member(s) to participate. As FOG continues to grow, it is essential that the board be aware of the attitudes, interests, and preferences of the members.

I will not be standing for election this coming year. As FOG has grown, the office of Executive Director has finally become a paid full time position, answerable to the Board of Trustees. I am not comfortable with the idea of answering for my actions to a board of which I am a member. Many members who have become aware of my feelings in this matter have expressed concern that their ideas, preferences, and goals may no longer have an effective means of being presented to the board. I hope that this will not be the case.

I will, of course, still attend board meetings and will continue my reports to the board. However, for those who are concerned about the possibility of lessened contact with the board, I would like to suggest that a wider geographical representation of the membership on the board would alleviate this concern.

This election, in addition to the selection of the board of trustees, members will be asked to approve a change in the bylaws. The bylaws currently specify a one year term for board members. Several of the current board members, myself among them, would prefer to see more stability in the membership of the board. For this reason, you will be asked to approve

or disapprove an amendment changing the term of office to two years.

If this change is approved, the five nominees with the most votes will be elected to two year terms. The second five nominees will be elected to one year terms. Each election after this, at least five seats will be up for election (if a seat becomes vacant for any reason during the year, this seat will also be filled at the next election).

It is important therefore, that anyone considering running for the board of trustees keep in mind that the possibility exists that they could be elected for a two year term. There are a couple of ways to get a name on the ballot:

- 1) get 40 current FOG members to sign a petition naming a current FOG member
- 2) present the name to the nominating committee.

If anyone is interested in standing for election to the board of trustees, please let me know as soon as possible. If you are unable to obtain the required 40 signatures locally, I can help get the additional signatures. If this doesn't work out, I will present the name to the nominating committee.

The deadline for nominations is December 15, 1984. All nominees should prepare a nomination statement for inclusion with the ballot. As in past elections, each nominee will have a maximum of 85 lines (65 characters per line) for their statement. The statements must be submitted as WordStar (or similar) files with no print commands and hyphen-help turned off. Each nominee may either send in a disk with the file or upload the file to FOG RCP/M #1 or #3. The statements must be received in the office no later than December 31, 1984.

If any member has a question on this matter, please let me know as soon as possible. Remember that you should have the consent of the person you are nominating before submitting the name.

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Applications Requested

by Gale Rhoades

As FOG continues to grow, it becomes more and more important that the office be run on a business basis with most services provided by paid professionals. Although volunteers will always be a major force in this organization, it must be remembered that most have full time jobs which must take priority. For continuity of service to the members, the FOG office is hiring staff members to handle most the work in the office.

The Board of Trustees has indicated a preference that, where feasible, these positions be filled by FOG members. This helps to ensure that the basic philosophy of FOG is continued. As our membership approaches 14,000 currently paid members, it becomes more and more difficult for me to handle the job of overseeing the office while providing the HELP SERVICE by phone, mail, and modem.

The Board has therefore started a test of the advisability and affordability of increasing the office staff to assist with

HELP SERVICE. In the event, as seems likely at this time, the Board decides to add this person (or persons) to the staff, we need to know if there are members who would be interested in applying for the job.

Duties may include some or all of the following:

- helping members find solutions for their problems, either by phone or by mail;
- organizing, maintaining, and increasing the resource letter I have started (including consolidating all the useful letters, bug reports, modifications, etc into publishable format);
- maintaining equipment in the office;
- programming as needed for the office;
- helping to coordinate the FOG librarians;
- maintaining one or more RCP/Ms;
- training the office staff in the use of WordStar, dBase, and in basic answers to phone inquiries;
- helping local group officers devise training programs for their local members;
- write a regular column for the *FOGHORN* to share the more sought-after answers;
- work with manufacturers to resolve serious hardware, software, or firmware bugs;
- and so on.

Any member who is interested in being considered for this position, in the event that there is an opening, should send a resume to the office by December 31, 1984. If you have any questions, please call me at the office. Obviously one of the things that the Board must still determine, in addition to the feasibility of this position(s) is the salary to be paid so be sure to include a preferred salary scale with the resume so that the Board can have some guidelines on what they should offer. It is not likely that the board will make a decision on this matter until late January or early February 1985. Temporary personnel are being used in the interim, both to help me get caught up and to simplify the feasibility study. For now, I have me help so those of you who have been wondering if I was ever going to get you an answer should be relieved to hear that help is on the way. If you have not gotten the help you have requested by the time you read this, please let me know. It is possible that your request was misplaced, especially since I have been farming some of the requests out to other members and we now have a couple of solutions for which we have lost the name of the inquirer.

Three Years of *FOGHORN*

by David M. Oates

Three years ago, Oct. '81, my first issue of *FOGHORN* "went to press". I mean to say that was the first issue that I worked on; Vol. 1 No. 1 (OSUG NEWS) was produced by Frank Morton. No doubt you've heard of him. (On the front of #1, Frank declared himself "Your (Very) Temporary Editor" — A smart guy, that one. Frank and I shared the effort that produced Vol. No. 2 (and many more). Most newsletter editors will find it

easy to visualize the working conditions of those early issues: *Late night (early morning) finds two red eyed masochists slaving over two Osborne 1s (serial numbers 148 and 448) and one overworked Epson MX-80. They alternate between changing text (and margins) to squeeze everything onto a minimum number of sheets, and falling asleep or into stupors).* . . . Sound familiar?

That issue, Oct./Nov., was printed with the November '81, Info-News, the newsletter of Info-Net (later changed to Pico-Net). Much of my good intentions and my clever formatting was lost in the merge. I almost quit!

Anyway, this issue that you have in your hands represents a significant anniversary in my mind.

I feel the *FOGHORN* staff should take a bow. Without the efforts of those individuals, behind-the-scenes . . . well, the *FOGHORN* just wouldn't be. And, in fact, we do receive many warm letters of appreciation; ". . . addicting", "can't put it down", "keep up the good work", "all other things stop when *FOGHORN* arrives", etc.

However, there is one important group of *FOGHORN* workers that, I feel, needs to be commended. I want to forward those thank you messages to YOU, the contributing members! THANK YOU, from the membership and the *FOGHORN* staff. It's depressing to think about where we would be without you. I remember begging for articles — No fun!

So keep those articles, tips, letters, discoveries, etc., coming. And don't forget us tyros. Many members indicate that although they are new to computers, they would like to contribute something. Well, those are just the people that still have the novice viewpoint that the *FOGHORN* needs. Share your questions and your discoveries. There are thousands of others out there that are new computer users, and some of the first things that they need to know are the most difficult to find. I remember, in 1980, how hard it was for me, a total novice, to find out just what CP/M was. All the magazines mentioned it. It sounded like something that my (future) computer should have, but what is it? I'm including this plug for *TIPS FOR TYROS* because that column has been lacking lately.

Let me end with a reminder to all contributors, new and old. Please read the **Submissions** statement on page 2 of any *FOGHORN*. In addition to that, I would appreciate it if you would avoid sending ASCII files (i.e. those which have hard carriage returns on every line) instead of WordStar files. I understand that AMCALL's UNLOAD changes WordStar to ASCII. So if your file is written in WordStar and you intend to send it in using AMCALL it would be helpful if you could send it using the MODEM protocol. I know that sounds pretty selfish, but I said **avoid** (sending ASCII) rather than **don't**, because I CAN handle them, and I wouldn't want to discourage any good helpful material, but they do slow things down. Also, I'd appreciate a standard WordStar indent (column 6) on paragraphs. Again, not absolutely necessary, but nice.

One more tip about submitting your contributions by MODEM. Sending them to one of the FOG RCP/Ms has become more efficient than trying to catch me at the phone. The latter is still fine with me, but if I'm not available, try one of the FOG



boards. You can find all the phone numbers listed in the **FOGHORN** — Look in the index for FOG FONES.

Again, I thank you.

Regarding PRACSA

by Frank Morton

What is PRACSA? It is an acronym for Public Remote Access Computer Standards Association. It is an organization which is in the process of being formed as sort of an 'American Radio Relay League' type of organization for SYSOPs. The idea is to establish some standards and a Code of Ethics for the operation of Remote Access Computer Systems. We want to educate the public, the Common Carriers (like Pac Bell, etc.), and the Legal Authorities, about what it is that SYSOPs do and to show that SYSOPs are mature individuals who are working in a responsible manner for the public benefit.

The SYSOPs of FOG (Gale, Roy, Jack, myself, and Bond Shands) have been meeting with Byron McKay and many other interested SYSOPs to establish such an organization. The group has been drawing upon the legal expertise of Jim Schenkel, our Corporate Lawyer, and the experience plus resources of FOG to speed its implementation. We are proud to be a part of this movement towards standardization and self-policing on the part of sincere SYSOPs with good intentions. Any assistance from you, the FOG membership, can provide in publicizing and bringing notice of this group to potential SYSOP members anywhere will be greatly appreciated. Thanks Frank

Update on Status of Librarians and FOG RCP/M Systems

by Gale Rhoades

I know some of you will find this hard to believe but this past week (the end of August) saw me actually mail the last of the materials to the FOG librarians and FOG sysops. We now have a Zorba librarian (Steve Waxman) and seem to have a system for getting the submissions to the librarians. It turned out to be an even larger job than I first envisioned getting all this organized. Our librarians are spread all over North America. You saw some of their work in the September issue, you will see much more in the months to come.

By the time you read this, we will have a special RCP/M set up to receive submissions to the library or the **FOGHORN**. All callers will be given the ability to upload to this system and read messages (though you will have to request this status as on the other systems) but only the librarians and David will be able to enter messages or download files. The hope is that the members, and others, will use this system for making all submissions and that the other systems will be used for

downloading only. This procedure should see a decrease in the amount of time between when a submission is sent in and the appearance in the library or the **FOGHORN**.

You should check the **FOG FONES** for the telephone number for this special system which will be called FOG RCP/M #6.

Speaking of FOG RCP/Ms, you should watch the OTHERSYS files on the existing FOG systems for the phone numbers of the new systems as they go on line. I have, at last count, sent out 11 sets of software and signed license agreements. Some of the new systems will go on line easily. These numbers may even make the **FOG FONES** in this issue. The others, because they involve new variations of hardware, may be delayed and will not make this issue. As each system is put on line, the other systems will modify their list of other systems (use 0 at the message system prompt) will list the phone numbers.

If there are any other members or local groups who wish to join the network, the file SYSOPS.APP is still up on System #1 and System #3 (in the section NOTICES.FOG). Just download the file, print it out, read it, sign it, and send it to me at the office. The more of these systems we have, the better the members will be able to help one another and the easier everyone will find access to the library.

Portable Companion and OCC News

by Gale Rhoades

We have been getting a heavy volume of calls from members asking if the **Portable Companion** was still in business. In an attempt to reduce this volume of phone traffic, I am taking this opportunity to give the membership a status report.

Osborne Computer Corporation is in the process of setting up the **Portable Companion** as a separate entity. Had this been done originally, we would not have been without the **Portable Companion** all these months. The new ownership will be a partnership between the editors (Tony Bove and Cheryl Rhodes) and OCC. All subscription monies have been kept separate in temporary bank accounts. All future subscription monies will be also be separated from OCC. For those of you who have subscribed since the rebirth of the **Portable Companion**, your subscription will start with the next issue which is due at the printer October 20th.

I have been assured by the staff and management that they are aware of the past difficulties with the address labels on the last two issues and will ensure that this problem is resolved before the next issue is mailed. For those of you who read the address label on the last issue, please disregard the expiration date shown there. The mailing service which supplied the labels (from the old subscription books) erred in printing that information.

For those who wonder what all this is about, the **Portable Companion** is again being published. The issues will be coming out six times a year. (That's not the same as bi-monthly!) A year's subscription is \$25.00 for U.S. residents, \$35.00 for Canada and Mexico, and \$50.00 for foreign (airmail). All rates are for pre-paid. If you want to be billed, add \$3.00. You may charge the subscription to your VISA or MasterCard if you like.

For those of you who purchased the Osborne Comm-Pac modem and recieved an out-of-date Special Membership to the Source, I have been given a stack of current applications. If you will send me some evidence that you have purchased the Comm-Pac from the order forms which were run in the **FOGHORN**, I will have the packet sent to you. Please note that this offer is only available to those who purchased the Comm-Pac through the FOG office.

• • • • •

Mail Delay of the **FOGHORN** by Gale Rhoades

For the many members who have been wondering where this **FOGHORN** was; for the many who inquired about the delay in getting the September issue; and in an attempt to ease the phone and letter traffic in the office, I would like to remind one and all that "tis the season to be jolly". Each year we have encountered this problem. In September, all the mail order houses send out their catalogs. As anyone who receives these catalogs can tell you, there are more each year and each one is a little bit bigger.

The result is that the mail carriers have a much higher volume of mail each week than they have other weeks of the year. As Christmas (with its cards and presents) approaches, the situation will only get worse. The non profit bulk mail used for the delivery of the majority of the **FOGHORNS** is all too often pushed aside so that the mail of other rates can be delivered. We have even noticed that in some areas, the First Class delivery is taking longer than normal.

The point of this short article is to remind all of the members that this office has no control over the delivery of the **FOGHORNS** once they are taken to the Post Office. Only the recipient of each copy, by means of a complaint to the Post Office, can affect the quality of the postal service. If you are missing an issue or if you receive a shredded copy, we can send a replacement. If you are unhappy with the long delay in getting your copy, you can change to First Class delivery (prorated from \$6.00 per year). But these are temporary fixes for the basic problem. Please help us by taking a few minutes to file a complaint with the Post Office.

Every office has the PS FORM 4314-C. It is a four part form. You should retain the top copy (the original). The other three copies go to the local postmaster or the consumer service center in St. Louis. It is this last that will eventually cause any changes in the system since many of the reports about the Post Office are generated by this office.

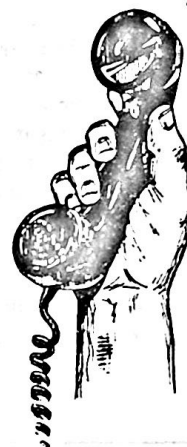
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ATTENTION

Page 2 of every **FOGHORN** is reserved for membership information. Please refer to it for the additional postage charges for 1st class and non-U.S. delivery of the **FOGHORN**.

FOG

FONES



FOG office, voice line (415) 755-4140
 FOG RCP/M # 1 (300 & 1200) (415) 755-2030
 FOG RCP/M # 2 (300 & 1200) (604) 596-0314
 FOG RCP/M # 3 (300 & 1200) (415) 992-8097
 FOG RCP/M # 4 (300 & 1200) (415) 591-6259
 FOG RCP/M # 5 (300 & 1200) (415) 424-1482
 KAY*FOG RCP/M #11 (300 & 1200) (415) 285-2687
FOGHORN Editor, voice line (408) 249-5223

LETTERS

Dear *Portable Companion*

I must take exception to your comments to Mr. Bond Shands Jr.'s letter in the July issue of the *Portable Companion*.

Since the reorganization of the Osborne Computer Corporation and the resurrection of the *Portable Companion* you have commented several times about support of the company. What you seem to forget is that we are not dealing with a professional sports team where we would root for the success of the home team. Osborne and The Companion are a business; a business that, through mismanagement, has gone bankrupt and we, as owners of the companies product has taken a loss. Be it a service contract, lack of a P-system, or a subscription to this publication we have lost something. If a owner was not part of a user group or has not gone through the painful and frustrating task of filing for the recovery of monies in bankruptcy court one would not know that some monies could be recovered. Where were our friends at

cont. on page 10

Are you on the OCC mailing list?

Did you receive the recent eight page newsletter which OCC mailed in late July? (It is color with a cover saying "Osborne Comes Back to the World" and an Executive sitting on a world map.) If not then it is unlikely that you are on the mailing list. Arrangements have been made to add any interested owners to the list.

Please note that this is only for those owners who did not receive this mailing or those who have moved since they got the mailing! If there are too many duplications, the project could be abandoned as too costly.

To get on the mailing list, fill out this blank and send it to OCC, 42680 Christy Street, Fremont, CA 94538. Mark the envelope ATTN: Mailing list registration. Note that you must include the serial number of you Osborne in order to be added to the list.

Serial number: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

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TO SHOW OUR APPRECIATION OF YOUR SUPPORT, WE ARE PLEASED TO OFFER:
THE OSBORNE EXECUTIVE — LIMITED EDITION

Introducing a special offer — the Osborne Executive Limited Edition. If you ever thought about purchasing a computer, now is the time to act. From now until Sept. 15, 1984, we are offering the Limited Edition, a new, improved Osborne Executive, personalized expressly for you. In place of the normal Executive nameplate, we will engrave a high-quality silver nameplate with your name on it. What's more, we will encode your name into the ROM of the system, so that when the Limited Edition is turned on, your name will be prominently displayed on the screen. Not many companies would do so much to personalize a system, but everybody knows that Osborne has always been a one-of-a-kind company.

The Executive is the perfect tool for the person who needs to type documents of any sort or to work with numbers on a spreadsheet. It gets the job done, fast and efficiently, for a fantastically low price.

ADDED BENEFIT. Because your name is burned into the system ROM, your computer is unique. No one can turn your system on without seeing your name appear on the screen. That includes any would-be computer thieves. Operation Identification would be proud.

SYSTEM SPECIFICATIONS

The Osborne Executive has a 7-inch amber display with brightness and contrast controls, two disk drives (200K bytes each), a typewriter-style keyboard with a 12-key numeric keypad, parallel and serial input/output ports to hook up any type of printer you want, a set of documentation that is some of the best in the industry, and all the software you need. The software includes WordStar® (the top-selling word processing package), SuperCalc® (electronic spreadsheet package), CBASIC® and MBASIC® (two popular programming languages), and the Personal Pearl® Database system. All this for only \$1445.00!

THE NEW, IMPROVED OSBORNE EXECUTIVE

The personalized, Limited Edition Executive is nice, but what's behind the nameplate? The new OCC has made some important improvements in the Osborne Executive computer. Here are some of the enhancements we've made:

Enhanced BIOS. The BIOS is the Basic Input/Output System, or the gut level of the operating system. We've enhanced it to make it faster and easier to operate with nearly every type of printer. Every Limited Edition Executive comes with the Enhanced BIOS.

ROM VERSION 1.21. Every new Executive includes a new version of the ROM. (The ROM is the part of the computer that logically connects the hardware to the BIOS.) The ROM has been improved to run some of the new hot selling high-level programming languages, like the low-priced Turbo Pascal from Borland International.

Quiet Fan. The fan on the new Executive runs smoother and quieter — smoother to eliminate interference to the screen, and quieter so that the Executive is physically less tiring to use.

Xerox Warranty. Every Executive sold directly to you includes a 90-day warranty from Xerox. Should your trusty Ozzie break down, you can take it to any of the 91 Xerox repair centers across the country.

Executive Modem. Remember the Osborne 1® COMM PAC modem that fits into the left-hand disk pocket of the computer? We now have one just like that for the Executive. It's called the Executive COMM-PAC and it lets you do everything you could do with the Osborne 1 version, such as connect to the information data bases, services, and bulletin boards across the country. The 300-baud modem has auto-dial and auto-answer capabilities.

The COMM-PAC comes with the latest version of AMCALL® communications software (retails for \$125 by itself), a special 30-day trial offer (with 2 free hours of connect time) from the Dow Jones News/Retrieval Service®, and an offer from Western Union to subscribe to EasyLinkSM. With Dow Jones you can check all your stock quotes, scan and read the day's breaking events in the *Wall Street Journal* (Journal stories go on-line at 7:00 AM EST each weekday), or find out what happened on the last Wall Street Week TV show — complete transcripts are available on Dow Jones. With Easylink you can send telexes or mailgrams right from your fingertips. Sound good? How about this: if you buy a COMM-PAC with your Executive, then the price is a mere \$100, \$50 off the normal price.

Executive Technical Manual. Want to know everything about the Executive computer? Here's the book for you. The Executive Technical manual contains everything about the system from the sensuous system schematics, action packed BIOS listing, the revealing secrets behind the theory of operations, to the naked pinouts of connectors. It's over 900 pages and comes in five fun-filled volumes. It can be yours for \$125.

Executive Universal Terminal Emulation. Got a mainframe nearby that you need to talk to? The EXETERM, Distributed by JMM Enterprises, lets you emulate many different terminal types. Now, your Executive is not only a nifty, portable computer, but can act as a terminal to connect to a mainframe computer. EXETERM sells for \$250.

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- 128K, Z80A microcomputer
 - CP/M Plus™, WordStar®, SuperCalc™, MBASIC™, CBASIC™, Personal Pearl®, UCSD Pascal
 - 90-day Xerox Americare Warranty
 - A smoother, quieter fan
 - The enhanced BIOS
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- PLUS:**
- Personalized sign-on message when you power up the system.
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LIMITED EDITION

your name



**ALL FOR
\$1445.00**

Order now! Offer good until Sept. 15, 1984. Subject to availability.

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Osborne Executive "Limited Edition"	\$1445. ea	_____
Osborne Executive COMMPAC Modem	\$100. ea *	_____
Osborne Executive Technical Manual	\$125. ea	_____
Handling Charge		<u>10.00</u>
California residents add 6.5% sales tax		_____
Total Amount to be sent with order:		\$ _____

Two to three week delivery to allow for personalization.

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 Address _____
 City, _____
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☐ Cashier's check
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Please print name to be engraved very clearly.
 Osborne is not responsible for misspellings.

* When purchased WITH the Executive.
 Modem is \$150 when purchased separately.

Signature _____

All orders can be paid by cashier's check, Mastercard and VISA.
 Sorry, no personal checks or COD's can be accepted.

All orders will be shipped UPS, freight collect.

We encourage you to order through your local Osborne dealer
 and save on shipping charges.

SEND ALL ORDERS TO:

Osborne Computer Corp.
 26538 Danti Court
 Hayward, CA 94545
 Attn. Customer Service/Dept. 5000

Offer only good in
 the United States

WordStar is a registered trademark of MicroPro, Intl. Personal Pearl is a registered trademark of Relational Software. CP/M Plus and CBASIC are trademarks of Digital Research, Inc. SuperCalc is a trademark of Sorcim Corp. MBASIC is a trademark of Microsoft.

cont. from page 7

Osborne to give us this information. They sure knew where to find us to advertise a "back in business sale." This is the company you wish us to support.

Why must I "risk" my hard earned money on someone else's business venture. I wonder how long my company would stay in business if my literature or contracts stated that the customer must be willing to "risk his money" to use my services. With this attitude I would be out of business faster than you could push the reset button.

I do not consider myself a "fan" of General Motors just because I purchased one of their products; nor will I consider myself a "fan" of the Osborne Computer Corporation just because I purchased one of their computers. I will also not permit a magazine owned by this same corporation to use guilt to attempt to make me feel obligated to patronize its products.

There is no question in my mind that the Osborne 01 is a superior machine; and that the company will begin to manufacture hardware of similar quality. However, this attitude problem which the publishing arm of the corporation has is going to have to change. Between FOG's newsletter, *The FOGHORN* and Kaypro's monthly publication, *Profiles* (published monthly for a subscription price of \$25.00 per year) I can do just fine with out the *Portable Companion* at a ludicrous price of \$5.00 per quarterly issue.

Seeing that I am not going to see your publication again I would appreciate it if you could answer this letter via US mail.

Randy Feldman
President & CEO

Feldman Photography
Port Washington, NY

Trouble With Epson Print Heads

I recently went through an expensive repair on my EPSON FX-80 that could easily have doubled in cost. The problem occurs when the print head quits working. Since it is promoted as a do it yourself replacement, many people will be tempted to do just that. What you need to be careful about is that one of the nine \$1.29 driver transistors may have failed also. If you put a new print head (\$87.00) in with a bad driver, you will destroy the new print head! I would recommend having the drivers checked by a technician before replacing a bad print head. The drivers are replaceable components so don't let them push a complete main board on you unless it is damaged beyond repair. A new board is \$130.00 plus your board in exchange or about \$280.00 outright.

Ken Mills

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HAS LACK OF ABILITY TO CHANGE OR ADD A FIELD TO YOUR dBASE
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OSBORNE APPROVED UPGRADE

WordPatch from Rocky Mountain

Last January I bought a WordPatch from Rocky Mountain Software Systems which was received in February, but was labelled NorthStar — I'd ordered it for my tan Osborne 1 (which I've loaded with DD, SP, Drive C:, Compac, and RT60-A clock). A phone call got things straightened out and I received the correct disk. I still had my original WordStar (2.26) and it took the WP installation very well. About a month later I succumbed to the update offer by MicroPro and bought the 3.30 update. However, WP wouldn't install. Another phone call, and I found out that RMSS knew of the problem, which was fixed with a \$5.00 fee and shipping back the original disk. I received the updated disk and it installed without any problems. It seems MicroPro had changed the location of some data which WP used to locate the patch.

The new disk is version 3.1c. In my haste, I lost track of the disk with WP on it and tried to print the documentation with the WS disk without the WP — surprise, it all printed as it should, except the Greek and Graphic programs — when they didn't show up, I checked and ran the documentation again with the correct disk. The Greek and Graphic programs showed up as they should. That got my curiosity up and I checked WS and WP ^P programs. It seems WP includes commands not documented by MicroPro, then added others. I counted 7 ^P commands WP changed of the 25 WS has listed, and 10 new ones added.

Good for them; I've no complaint; the price is right, the results useful, and the documentation is explicit and easily understood.

Wish I could say the same for my NEC 8023A-C manual. This printer is suppose to be the same as the C-ITOH IProWriter. The manual says it's a serial printer on p.4, but on pages 16 & 53 it is described as a parallel printer. I've connected it to my Osborne 1 at the IEEE 488 outlet, and programmed the connection as a Centronics printer, so I guess it is a parallel printer. It seems there is a serial option, which was not included when I bought it.

I'm satisfied with the WordPatch program, and with Rocky Mountain Software Systems. I received full cooperation with any problem, and from Knowledgeable persons, once I got through on the phone — their phones are quite busy.

There are some "beware's" and precautions:

Always PIP the new disk programs to a newly formatted disk -- several would be better — and set the new WP disk aside.

Use only the PIPed disk for installation — the installation program is programmed to erase the installation files when installation is completed. So, when you are done, and you find a mistake was made, you can start over with another PIPed disk.

RMSS charges \$20.00 for a REPLACEMENT disk, so be careful.

Not all the WP commands can be used together, — for instance, it states: "proportional spacing mode will not combine with elite type mode, or condensed print mode."

All WS installation must be installed before patching in WP, else, if WS installation is changed after WP is added, a mess may result and that disk might become useless. Hence the precaution to use only a PIPed disk to install WP.

I've rambled somewhat, but hope there is enough useable hints to make this missive worthwhile.

I do recommend Rocky Mountain Software Systems as a reliable source, & I'm sure you already heard similarly from other FOG member customers.

I also recommend J. G. Communications.

J. B. Perkins
Niles, MI

* * * * *

Problems with HomeTax

Re: Bernard E. Jensen's letter in the June *FOGHORN* (Problems with Learning Shack's "HomeTax" program).

I too experienced the problems with HomeTax and traced Learning Shack from California to Florida as did Bernard Jensen. When I contacted the people in Florida, they were most interested in the problem and asked that I submit my original disks for recopy. The original and a copy of my particular working disk were mailed and I really received a return phone call about a week later. I was told that no Osborne 1 computer was available to run my disks on, but that I would be sent another set of recopied disks. All this transpired in early April as I was rushing to meet the tax deadline. As no corrected disks were promptly returned, I did some snooping of my own using "SuperZap" from Software Toolworks. The problem soon became apparent as several editing mistakes on the "drive B" disk. This information was forwarded to Learning Shack along with printouts of the problem areas on May 8th. As of today, June 11th, there has been no reply. Following is the text of my letter to Learning Shack.

(FOLLOW-UP LETTER TO LEARNING SHACK, MAY 8, 1984)

You may recall our telephone conversation in early April and subsequent letter which mailed you my original HomeTax disks along with two additional working disks from my Osborne 1 DD machine for examination. There was a problem with the system crashing when trying to run three different portions of the program. I received one phone call since that time requesting additional information but have never been given a solution to the problems. I have done a little investigating on my own using "Super Zap" to read the data disk. There seems to be incorrect information on the B disk starting with sector 300 (see attached). Instead of continued information regarding spouse earnings per Pg 1031, sector 300 has duplicate data from sector 248 dealing with Qualified persons. Pg 1031. I suspect a similar problem with the two other areas that fail.

I hope this information will shed some light on the solution to the problems. It would appear that the B disk is merely written with the incorrect information. I look forward to your reply and return of my disks corrected. Thank you.

Tony Hackney
Magnolia, TX

* * * * *

HomeTax, SKF/Setup

Regarding Bernard E. Jensen's letter in the June, 1984 issue about his contact with Learning Shack (a.k.a., Learning Source). I, too, experienced similar difficulties with the firm. I returned my 1984 Hometax Update for debugging two weeks before April 15 and have not been able to contact anyone since. Letters to the company are received (certified mail) but not answered. Please keep me advised of any developments in Mr. Jensen's pursuits or any other member for that matter.

My question [?] is about the Special Function Keys (SKF). My blue Osborne 1 manual tells me I have 96 characters available for programming and the directions in the SETUP program tell me to press <esc><esc> after I have programmed a function key.

Upon entering the programming function for the SKF's I am informed I have only 72 characters available (which is the case). Also, after entering one <esc> the program returns to the main function key selection stage. Consequently, I can not enter a function command which requires a single <esc> command such as Joseph Bousquet's "A WordStar PRINT Key" (May, 1984).

I can understand the first problem; this would not be the only flaw found in the blue manual. It is unfortunate because 72 characters is not much once someone gets into using the

SFK's. The problem with <esc> is beyond me because apparently others do not have this problem.

Please advise me of any comments you or any members might have regarding the SKF's.

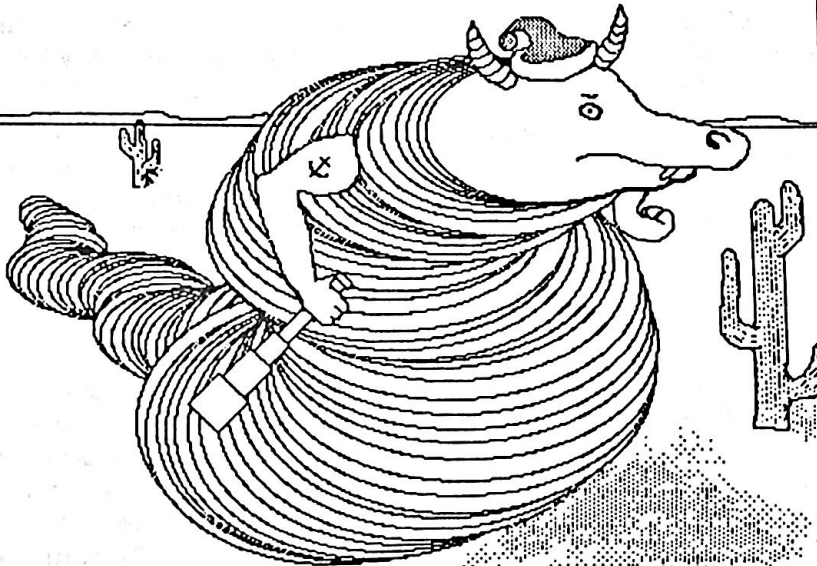
Marc E. Schreiber
West Nyack, NY

The manual you have is a single density (at least in the main part) version of the manual. Owners with single density machines do indeed have 96 characters available for their Special Function Keys. The discovery of great time- and labor-saving of these Special Function Keys has led many single density owners to wish they had more than the 96 characters available. The loss of 20 or more of these available characters was, in some cases, a difficult trade for those wanting double density and/or 80+ column upgrades. One solution would be SmartKey. This program has the ability to make nearly every key a "Special Function Key" with virtually unlimited characters or strings (word or words) capability.

I am bewildered by the second problem. Unfortunately, this is a case of "must see to fix". I can only suggest that you get together with another Osborne owner (be sure you have identical upgrades) and compare software. If any of the members have a solution, please let me know. — Gale Rhoades

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Proportion Spacing — Osborne EXEC

First — thanks a million to you and others who have helped me immensely by means of the newsletter. I could not have done it without you!

Secondly, a suggestion. For us novices [for everyone's sake], would everyone please list, up front, the equipment he is discussing in his letter or article? It would help to know immediately if an article is applicable to one's own situation. For example:

Proportional Spacing — Osborne Executive, WordStar 3.3, Silver-Reed EXP 550 Printer.

For Benjamin H. Cohen (Sept. '83 issue, pg. 16) and all others who accepted at face value the statement in the manual that WS 3.3 does not support proportional spacing, please be advised that it does--and you don't even need a special PD daisywheel!

I had purchased the book PROPORTIONAL SPACING ON WORDSTAR (Writing Consultants, 11 Creek Bend Drive, Fairport, NY 14450 — \$20 pp), and the book is worth its weight in gold, but before proceeding with the patch work (being a timid soul) I thought I would check out what might be built into WS. I put a 12-pitch daisywheel on the printer and set the Dip Switches: #1 Off, #2 On. Then edited a short WS file by turning righthand justification off on the first paragraph and leaving it on for the second (reforming with ^B) — then I went to the top of the file and inserted the following codes:

^P,P;^P,A (^P^A — invokes PS & Alternate Pitch)
.cw9 (the average character width for PS)

I did a test printout — and Voila! Beautiful proportional spacing! It appears to be an ideal size for typesetting the newsletter that my husband and I publish for his WW II AAF unit.

Proportional spacing can also be done with both the 10-pitch and 15-pitch daisywheels. For 10-pitch the recommended settings are:

WS Codes: ^P,P; ^P,A
.cw11 (.cw10 can be used, although letters are a little "scrunched")
Printer: Dip Switches #1 & #2, Off

For 15-pitch wheel:

WS Codes: ^P,P; ^P,A
.cw7
.LH7 (7 lines per inch)
Printer: Dip Switch #1 On, #2 Off

This procedure produces TRUE proportional spacing--i.e., letters are by space ratio within the words, and then the white space between the words is microjustified across the line. This is true whether righthand justification is on or off.

A word of caution: With the OS-1 and Epson MX80, I use to edit the files and adjust the spacing manually, as I did not like the way the O1 assigned extra spaces to the first space on the left (last one on right, second one on left, etc.), because it created white "alleys" in the print work. While experimenting with PS I adjusted a few spaces but found that the "hard"

spaces interfered with the microjustification.

Another tip: Type your document with righthand justification off, and get a sample printout in PS. Not many lines need adjusting but occasionally one has been condensed enough that the next word can be brought up. Edit the file, using margin release (^O,X) if necessary, put righthand justification on (^O,J) and reform with ^B from next line to end of paragraph.

Although the above method does an excellent job with PS, even more refined results can be achieved by doing the patch work as outlined in the book mentioned above, and I highly recommend it.

Esther M. Oyster
Akron, Ohio

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MYCHESS — Not for the EXEC

I have had my Executive for a year now and am quite pleased with its operation; but I have had the normal amount of problems with software that will not run as advertised. Some programs have fixes and others do not and for the cost of the program I can see why some companies would not stand behind their product.

EXCEPTION!! SOFTWARE TOOLWORKS

Early this year I purchased the MYCHESS program, with assurance of Software Toolworks that it would run on the Executive. I must report that alas, MYCHESS will NOT run properly and Software Toolworks has notified me that they have no fix at this time. The notification, by the way, was in the form of a nice note, with a check attached for the full price of the program, including shipping. I have sent the program disk back and thought that SOFTWARE TOOLWORKS should be mentioned as a company that deserves to be complimented.

Terry A. Zwetzig

A couple of months ago, I became aware of this problem and began checking on a solution. I talked to Walt Bilofsky of Software Toolworks and discovered that the problem was related to the register problem which had caused similar difficulty with other software packages on the Executive. I arranged for him to get a new Executive ROM (Rev. 1.21). The staff at Software Toolworks have played a number of games at all levels and found none of the previous problems. For those of you Executive owners who have wanted to get the MYCHESS, you need to get the new ROM before the game will work. — Gale Rhoades

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Speed-Up Problem

I have an Osborne 1, blue case, with Osborne DD and 80 column upgrades and MPI drives. Tried to implement Frank Muennemann's patch from the May *FOGHORN* several times without any luck. Computer will not boot with the patch made. Found one typo error in the article (extra space) but that still didn't help. I know my drives will handle the increased speed as some of my disks are now running at increased speed from the J.G. Communications clock upgrade. I need the patch for my disks that are not using the real time clock feature. Any suggestions?

Tony Hackney
Magnolia, TX

* * * * *

Lazy Seimens B: Drive

I have to add my voice to the crowd of people who appreciate the fine job you do for us users out here in radio-land. For US \$30 (\$24 a year plus \$6 for first class postage), it's a real bargain. There's hardly any US magazines that aren't working full-tilt at trying to sell tons of crud to the readers — like, who wants to read and read and read about new stuff to buy? What a treat to get *FOGHORN* and read for hours and hours about people trying to help other people. *FOGHORN* feels good — I can't think of anything else that costs 24 bucks that feels anywhere near as good.

To Michael Rulison (*FOGHORN* Vol. III, No. 9, pp. 12) who is having trouble with his reluctant B: drive, I have this advice based on two years of struggle with reluctant Seimens drives (the solutions are in order, starting with the lowest-cost solution):

1. Always start the day by pushing (SHIFT " (SHIFT/QUOTE); this wakes up the B: drive for the rest of the day; if you don't care for this solution, go to the next step. [*This is the method that I use. David*]
2. Swap A: & B: drives, remembering to swap the little resistor-pack that dwells on the A: drive. Swapping drives only works if your A: REALLY wants to be a B: drive - i.e. sometimes this method results in a permanent fix, but sometimes it doesn't.

Both methods 1 & 2 are no-cost solutions. Read on if you have money (every trip I make to the dealer costs me \$150; I'll try ANYTHING to avoid going to the dealer):

3. Swap the B: drive for an exchange Seimens drive. This could lead you back to step 1 because there's no way you can order a Siemen drive that "REALLY wants to be a B: drive". The parts-man will think you're right out of it.
4. Ask your Osborne dealer (Yes, they still exist?) to fix your reluctant B: drive. This step should not be taken lightly because of the effect it can have on the dealer. He may give up his Osborne dealership. The Osborne dealer (or pretend-OSborne dealers like Xerox) have no way of selecting good B: drives out of the mountain of Seimens drives in the back room. So it might take a couple of tries.

I discovered the next cure after my dealer offered me "an MPI drive" if I would please go away with my B: drive problems. What a surprise! The noisy, chattery MPI plugs right in and works like a damn! Therefore, if you've tried all the above and nothing else works, go to the next step.

5. Buy an MPI drive complete with circuit board. This is worth the money! MPI drives REALLY want to be B: drives! Leave the el-cheapo Seimens drive in the Osborne's A: position where it will sit for the rest of its days. (Anyway, you now have a left-over Seimens drive which, as we know by now, will nearly always work just fine in the A: drive department.

What's the reason for reluctant B: drives? Nobody seems to know or care. These empirical methods will show you that the reluctant B: drive is still good for other things. Is the problem in the circuit board? Is it the zero-track switch? Does anybody know?

Reilly Burke
Vancouver AMF, BC

* * * * *

Data Acquisition?

This year I bought a Morrow MD3, largely because it would read my Os-I SD disks. That was a smart move Morrow made. When using the Morrow, I miss SuperCalc, which I'd just updated to the -2 version. Those 16 places are handy for ray-tracing. Does anyone have any experience using the Os-I for data acquisition, such as recording the memory of a Multi-channel Analyzer for later (or current) messaging, analysis, print-out?

James E. Manson
Concord, MA

* * * * *

Cutting Stencils with a Brother EM-1 Typewriter

In the August 1984 issue of the *FOGHORN* on Page 9, Russell Reed of Pleasant Hill, OR asked about using a daisywheel to cut mimeograph stencils. I have had experience doing so with a Brother EM-1 typewriter (interfaced to my O1 and Exec). With "fresh" stencils, I find that by simply temporarily removing the film ribbon, I can cut these stencils without a problem. With some older stencils, I found that the stencil wasn't being cut well. Rather than discarding these older stencils, I discovered that by using the WordStar feature double-strike I can consistently produce a quality cut stencil. If this doesn't do the job for him, Russell can try the boldface (triple-strike) feature on WordStar.

Should the file to be printed be a non-WordStar file, such as a SuperCalc file, the file can be output to disk and then edited with WordStar to imbed the double-strike commands and then printed.

Richard L. Immerman
Cleveland Hts., OH

* * * * *

dBASE Problem

DOES ANYONE KNOW how to use function keys in dBASE? When I try to use them, all I get is the first character of the setting, not even every-other-one, which I understand is what happens on the O-1. What is it about dBASE that causes this problem? Anyone?

Making WordStar Boot Faster on the Executive

One thing of interest but of dubious value was uncovered when I was looking through WordStar files using the CP/M Dump program. On the top of the WSOVLY1.OVR file, there is a message for curious people like me: "Nosey, aren't you?!"

What I was really doing was trying to speed up the boot of the WordStar program. I use my Exec mostly for WP, so I am constantly running over and jamming in the WS disk. It didn't take long for me to get tired of the "WordStar by MicroPro" sign and the long copyright notice that took up most of the minute it took to load the program. So, using SID, I zeroed out the copyright notice (at the end of the WS.COM file). Now, not only don't I have to wait for that message to write all over my screen, but if I enter a command (usually I log drive b:), the messages scroll by immediately after being written on the screen. WS only takes about 20 seconds to boot now. It gives me the desired effect without causing any apparent harm to the word processor. Now, if anyone out there knows how to wipe out the screen-filling "WordStar by MicroPro" sign, please let me know. I'd love to get rid of it; I already know what program I'm running.

ONE PROBLEM THOUGH: After changing the WS.COM file in this way, you CANNOT USE the INSTALL program on WordStar. I found this out the hard way. As always, be sure you have a backup before messing with a program.

The Cheater's Method of Custom Autostarts on the Executive

Here's an interesting way to auto-execute programs (EXECST) for people who do not know how to write or modify EXECST programs. It involves a handy CP/M+ feature.

After the system boots, not only does it look for an EXECST.COM file to auto-start an application, but it also looks for a SUBMIT file called PROFILE.SUB (see the Reference manual, page 269 for details). If PROFILE.SUB is there, the computer will load SUBMIT (IT MUST BE ON THE BOOT DISK!) and run the commands in the .SUB file. Using a text editor (like VDO-EX, which should be in the Executive library by the time you read this), make the PROFILE.SUB file. Here's what I use:

```
SETDEF *.A:.B:
WS
```

Although this takes 11K of disk space (6K for SUBMIT, 4K for SETDEF, 1K for the PROFILE.SUB file), it is powerful. In addition to loading the program (here, WordStar), the SETDEF line (SETDEF *.A:.B:) does something that I think should be the default in CP/M: it resets the search order for programs. For instance, have you typed a command at the A> prompt (such as DIR [FULL]) and gotten the error "DIR.COM required" and said to yourself "damn computer, DIR.COM is on B:! Why don't you just run it, you know it's there!?! (*&^\$#!)" If you

had used SETDEF, the operating system would have checked there instead of giving you the error message!

Here's what the command line does: SETDEF runs the SETDEF program. The * means that when you enter a command, the operating systems first looks on the logged ('default') drive, then on drive A:, then on drive B:. If you issue this command after each reset, you will never again have to re-issue a command because you forgot to tell the computer what drive the command file is on.

Anyway, if you make the last line in the .SUB file the name of the program you wish to auto-start, it will indeed start that program for you.

Randy Cassingham
Arcata, CA

* * * * *

EXEC Lib. and Help My MX

I received my copies of the Exec library disks and am very pleased. Everything I've tried has worked. However, just a note to warn other users if they haven't found out yet, I had a little trouble when printing out the JRT manual. I transferred the JRTMAN1.LBR to a new disk and ran DELBR. It unloaded the files giving files with a Q in the type. I erased the .LBR file. Then I unsqueezed the Q files and that worked until it got to the last file when it gave a write error. Not wanting to lose the other files if things weren't working right I printed the other files (I had to edit them first, add .PO 2 and delete the page division at the end which causes my printer to print an extra blank page. Can't fault the source for this, all printers are different.). I looked at the file with the write error and it was only half there. I then deleted the other Q files and then tried unsqueezing again and everything worked. On the second batch the same thing happened, this time to the two last files, which made me suspicious, apparently there are just too many files on the disk to leave room for squeezed versions and unsqueezed versions at the same time. This one also unsqueezed all right when the completed files were deleted. However, I was unable to edit the -.007 file until I had transferred all the other files except .102 to another disk.

Another thing, I have heard that Mr. Tyson had a version of MODULA 2 or C about ready when JRT failed. If he has not worked out some other plans, what about FOG handling it. I am sure the Osborne users would be glad to pay a reasonable price for it, the money over distribution expenses could go to Mr. Tyson and FOG would still retain its nonprofit state.

One last request, I have an EPSON MX printer with the add on friction feed, it has always before worked if I used clothespins on the plastic roller to keep the paper feeding in straight, however it has recently decided to not release pin feed paper from the pins and no adjustment I try will make it work right again. Does anyone have any ideas?

Russell Reed
Pleasant Hill, OR

* * * * *

Marketing & Support

We're having a lot of fun with the numerous library disks that we have ordered in the past and muse in awe of those who spend the considerable time and talent preparing these programs to contribute to the "cause". We owe them a deep debt of gratitude.

It was with great interest that I read of your voting to withdraw advertising privileges from Osmosis.

I wanted 80 columns badly, but was turned off by the statement of Osmosis and others when they proclaim "Allow three weeks for personal checks to clear".

I am in the marketing business and that is a stupid statement to put into print. They want my \$250 in hand and I don't even know who they are, I don't know if they will send me anything, I don't know if it will work if they do send it, I don't know if I'll be able to install it and I don't know if it will ruin my computer. In other words, if a company is unwilling to gamble their cost, possibly in the neighborhood of \$50, against a \$250 check, they're either stupid or don't have any confidence in their own product.

My particular goods are quality products and at list price, I will accept anybody's check, ship immediately and I'll even pay the UPS charges. In three years, I have not insulted one of the finest people on earth, my customers, nor have I received a bad check.

The computer industry is made up of a large proportion of here today, gone tomorrow, "fast-buck artists".

A business relationship has to be made up of mutual trust - you don't trust me? Then, why should I trust you?

I've already been burned several times by the computer industry, including twice by the Osborne Computer Corporation. (I had forgotten the old adage that if you are bitten by a dog it is the dog's fault, but if he bites you again, it's your fault.)

Because of these reasons, I placed a transcontinental phone call to Osmosis to gain some confidence in their operation so that I could order the 80 column. I spoke with some women and when I began asking some questions, she hung up on me.

A couple of months later, I saw the Nuevo 80 column ad and phoned them for the same reason. I spoke to Al Jan, immediately had confidence in what he had to say and placed an order. When I received the "kit" I don't believe that I have ever been so pleased. It was in a sturdy package nestled in plastic foam, with a setup disk, instructions and even a pair of screwdrivers. The board was impressive looking and mechanically well made. Again I phoned Al Jan and told him that I was so pleased with what I had received that I didn't care if it didn't work!

However, the board was easily installed and has been working beautifully for three months now, and I'm talking 50 to 70 hours a week. Incidentally, I mounted the monitor jack in the carrying handle bezel, with the benefit of one less wire protruding from the front.

Look Ma, I am viewing the whole width of this letter with space left over! Fantastic!

Shortly after I purchased the Osborne in December 82, the

dealer disappeared, so when the Comm Pac modem would not work after the computer was on for over 10 minutes (evidently some heat sensitive components somewhere), I placed a transcontinental phone call to OCC for help and was switched to a recording, telling me to go to my non-existing dealer. There is no user group convenient to my area so I have had zero support on a no love for the company that gave birth to it. Whether OCC is alive or not, the support is the same - zero. Incidentally, a three inch fan that I mounted in the left rear corner near the carrying handle cured the modem problem.

Many times I've started on dBASE, but never seemed to have the time to really get in and learn it. So, this past week I bought a copy of the book "MASTERING dBASE THE EASY WAY" by Paul W. Heiser. It is the first presentation that made any sense to me and I am now into dBASE with both feet!

Keep up the great work with the **FOGHORN** - it is a pleasure being a member of FOG and it is our only avenue of support.

Henry B. Williams
Lugoff, SC

Ozzie and Ham

I am a new member to your organization, but have had an Osborne for over a year. On the back page [of a past **FOGHORN**] you mention special interest groups for dBASE II and Ham Radio operators. How can I get in touch with these groups?

To ease my record keeping, with my ham radio stuff, I would like to have various programs and I have, in fact, been working on a few of them, but do not want to recreate something that someone else has already done and probably has working better. I do have a copy of the FOG library diskette with various Ham programs. Is there someone who is using these and can tell me what kind of equipment is needed to utilize the RTTY program — for example?

I have dBASE II so if anyone has developed a system for logs and QSL cards and keeping track of various things like WAS using dBASE, I would be very interested in getting even a copy of how they have their file structured. Also any command files which we could exchange would be appreciated.

One program which I could contribute is a routine in MBASIC, which I have working, to print out QSL cards. I got it from QST magazine and have reworked it a lot to get it working on the Osborne and to include some documentation with it.

I'd appreciate any assistance you could give me. I have talked with several Dallas Osborne Group people and they didn't know anyone using the FOG ham diskette or anyone with additional programs. Here is my address:

W. Terry Whalin
705 Green Pastures Drive
Cedar Hill, TX 75104
(214) 291-2143

Some programs for the HAMS came in very recently for the library. It shouldn't be too long before they appear on the new disks which will start coming out very shortly. — Gale Rhoades

WordPlus, WordStar and Special Function Keys

Finally I have found the courage to write.

First to thank you for your excellent service in providing library discs. Secondly for consulting on the phone about hard discs. Last but not most important I want to thank Jim Woolley personally for all the work he put into the library for all of us out here in the far corners of the world to benefit from.

Having arrived at an optimum configuration for my use with the help of many hints from the *FOGHORN* I thought that I should pass on how I have set up my discs.

WordStar is used mainly for short reports and correspondence, so I keep everything on drive A:. I find WS works faster and there is more than enough room on the double density discs for my working files.

Once printed anything I wish to save gets moved and squeezed to an archive disc on B: using NSWP205.

First the special function keys:

```
0: ^KS^QP
1: ^B^QP
2: Ja^PH'nos(space)
3: ^QY
4: ^QS
5: ^QC
6: ^QD
7: LB:(CR)(space)RTW A:
8: (CR)(space)(CR)(space)LA:(CR)D^R(CR)(space)^Q^B1
9: ^QD(CR)(CR).CP3(CR)^I
```

- 0 - save and return to where you were.
- 1 - reform paragraph and return to where you were.
- 2 - the name of my son that has an accent over the a.
- 3 - delete from cursor to end of line
- 4 - go to beginning of line
- 5 - center text
- 6 - go to end of line
- 7 - log to B: and run the program TW with subject file on A: (here you have to fill in the name of the file and press return).
- 8 - this combination exits THE WORD logs back to A: Starts editing the last file worked on (usually the one the spelling was checked), and reforms the paragraphs as fast as possible.
- 9 - is used to go from the end of the last line to the beginning of the next paragraph.

The B: drive contains The Word Plus and its associated programs. So after KDiing a file you just hit ^7 fill in the file name. Now just hit return twice and let The Word Plus do its super job. Once it is finished instead of hitting return as instructed just hit ^8 and automatically you are back at the end of the file with all things fixed. If you haven't patched hyphen help off you may want to include it in the sequence for ^8.

I hope that this will help generate even more helpful hints, thanks again to all the hints which helped me put together my favorite softkeys.

Well that's all from the north country for now! Keep up the good work!

Conrad Stenton
Midland, Ontario, Canada

.....

Greetings From An Enthusiast

The background to this letter is that I am an overseas member of the First Osborne Group (FOG is surely familiar to most of the more established members) and as such am also a recipient of their newsletter *FOGHORN*. I assume that I am not alone either.

Naturally FOG has been in existence a lot longer than our group but there is no reason why we should not be able to reach the high standard of their newsletter in time. I sincerely hope that mild criticism will not be misunderstood, but I feel that the bad spelling in the Ausborne Newsletter cannot be excused especially as the mistakes do not always occur in the more complex words....

Secondly, and we are perhaps more on the way to this, we should shape the Newsletter so that it is technically informative. The copious print-outs of MBASIC programs should be avoided and rather be included in the library to avoid clutter and confusion. Also, an index at the beginning as to the contents would be a great help.

OK, that was the bad contribution, now I hope I can also offer something of use to some of our members....

A combination of information from *FOGHORN* and a little local imagination enabled me to "compose" the WordStar disk which I am using for this letter. On it I have three versions of WS (one for normal print, one for condensed print, and one for "elite" print as used here). The print refers to the initialization of the Epson printer I use and involves set-up of the different page-widths as well as the printer initialization.

As I also have to do a lot of German correspondence to friends in Munchen from where I come, I have configured the disk so that the alternate character set is the German one. Switching from one set to another is just a matter of pressing CTRL and TAB at the same time and means that I can then use such characters as a, u, o, u, A, O, and B.

The latest bit of relief came in the form of a procedure to patch out the sign-on display and copyright message at the beginning of each WordStar session, and I also make use of EXECST.COM, refreshingly efficient (and faster) without the big Osborne advertisement.

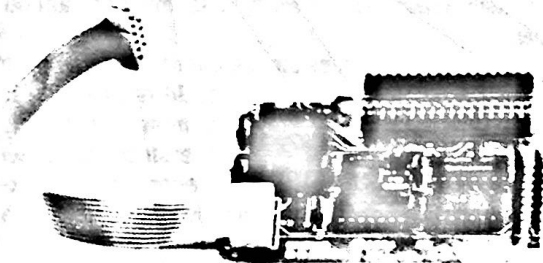
As the WordStar quickstart-patch (both SID and DDT versions) are reasonably long, I won't include them here but will try to include them in my next "article". In the meantime I will willingly give this information to anyone who doesn't have access to *FOGHORN* but wants it, and will help anyone with the set-up of alternate character-sets (any set is possible but it helps if your printer can also print the corresponding character sets too...).

Steffan Weiss
Sydney, Australia

.....



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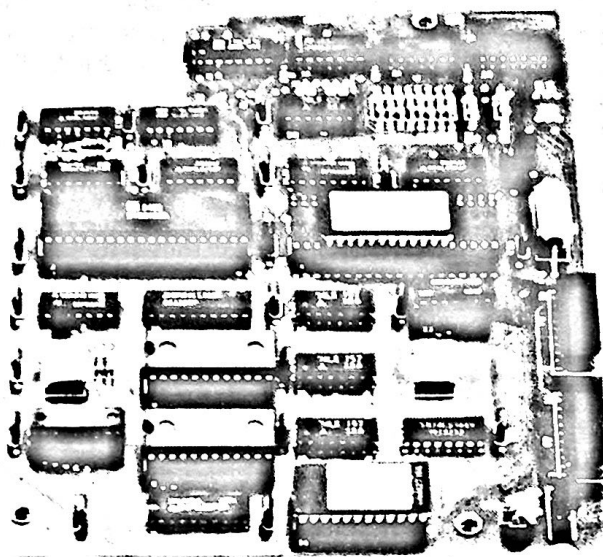
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Need EXEC < — > Diablo Help

I need some help — I have been trying to have my Diablo 1620 installed to run with my Osborne Executive — serial interface.

Xerox says it will repair this equipment but will not install it. The computer dealer I buy from — a local company which still does a lot of Osborne repairs — has been unable to get it running.

The 1620 was running on a single density Osborne 1 which was destroyed by fire last January. I know the printer is running/working properly since I can still get it to work on my I.M.S. 5000.

Can you send me information on how to install this Diablo 1620 for the Executive.

William E. Mariano
New York City, NY

Problem Drives, Flippies, WD-40, and More

You printed my comments on drive A problems in the July issue. Since I am basically impatient, and I needed both drives to carry on some projects, I decided to open my OS-1 and snoop. I found one connector inside the drive to be not full seated, and had actually a tad looser fit than the others. I unplugged all the connectors I could access, one at a time, and slid them on and off at least 3 times before seating them fully. The results are worth the effort — makes me wonder if some of my warranty work, and down time, could have been avoided in the past. I didn't like closing with the knowledge that one connector fit less firmly than the rest, but for now all is working well.

I can understand the hourly charges made by repair services as some of the problems we report are difficult to find in the shop. However, I do question the necessity of some replacement parts. Some may be replaced while finding the real problem or, as in my case, an unreliable connection may be fixed by the act of substituting a part. Besides, customers feel more secure if the bill states that some offending part has been replaced. It is not acceptable to us to get a bill that says, "Wiggled some connectors, now works fine — \$50.00". Since we no longer have the little support that OCC gave, and no warranty to violate, we should all get somewhat braver about analyzing problems and unzipping OZZIE to look for probable defects. (Notes on how to take the OS-1 apart were given the Dec. '83 *FOGHORN*, page 31.)

Frank Christ, founder of our local group (OPEN), advised that Osborne 80 column kits are available for \$125 according to an ad in the July Computer Shopper. Has anyone had experience with this installation? Can it be done successfully by a handy novice?

On Flipping Floppies, I've been doing this for a long time with no problems. Oh, sometimes it takes a couple of tries to get a disk to format completely, but I've only hit a couple that refused to cooperate. There are those who deplore this practice, but a floppy disk operates in contact with the head anyhow, so some day it is going to wear out whether one or both sides of the disk are used. The most probable cause for a

"dropout" (missing bit) is absence of oxide at some point. Both surfaces of the disk are probably burnished in the manufacturing process, and if this knocks off an oxide boulder it will show up in the automatic testing done on both sides. First thought is that a bad disk is then relegated to single side status, but if you think about the difficulty of insuring that the correct side is used you will agree that it is probably less expensive to scrap it. My thesis then is that all disks are created equal, only the jacket dictates the selling price.

On WD-40 treatment of printer ribbons, I support Gale's experience, it works — well! After buying several "new" ribbons for my EPSON with less acceptable results I decided to try WD-40 before investing in an ink. Apparently the ribbons just dry out on the store shelf. (A prior issue of *FOGHORN* told how to snap off the cartridge lid and spray lightly, or as required, with WD-40.)

I use SuperCalc to do engineering work because I like to run several iterations of a design side by side. By breaking formulas into bite-size chunks I'm able to see what elements are changing, and how they change. BASIC, FORTRAN and other high level languages are great, but observing interdependent changes in variables can be time consuming if you have to compare one print adjacent columns and observe how they affect the results, then change again to arrive at the desired result. If anyone is interested I would put together a sample filter design to show how it works.

Richard E. Stelter
Cypress, CA

COOL IT

Great News Everyone! I just solved the problem of my overheated Ozzie! I just bought a fan. No, it's not an ordinary fan. Its design is new this summer. It is supposed to be used as a personal fan. I extended its use to a personal computer fan. The facts:

Name: COOL IT
Size: about 3"
Cost: \$12.99
Manufacturer: Gould Inc.
6393 Coffeen St.
Watertown, New York 13601

I got mine at a local Walgreens, so if there is one near, you may want to check it out. How did I install it? Simple. I didn't. I just took the vent cover all the way off and hung the fan upside down on a shelf behind Ozzy. The fan has a wire stand that facilitates this position. The shelf is about 6" higher than the top of the computer and about 4" behind it. It moves enough air that some gets into the computer. The rest of the air hits me through the spaces between my Ozzy, my monitor, and my monitor stand. For \$13 and 3 minutes installation (placement), I think it is a better deal than the \$16 dollar Radio Shack fan I was going to buy and wire.

Paul Allen
Joliet, IL

Questions about HWS.COM, SuperCalc and F10-40, and 80 Column

This will be my first correspondence with FOG even though I have been a member for several months. First let me say that the **FOGHORN** has been a great help to me in as much as there is no dealer or local FOG group in this area to ask for help and I am still trying to learn what makes this computing business work.

In regards to the article by Bob Hamilton, March 1984 **FOGHORN**, page 13, *Patching WordStar to Help Level 2*. I used this and when I saved the new HWS.COM program I wound up short 7k (WS.COM, 21K; HWS.COM 14K) and the program would not boot up. Re-did it three times, same results, Can you tell me what went wrong? [*I followed Bob's instructions and have had no problems . . . I'm still using the HWS.COM, today! My HWS is 14K and my WS is 16 (with Double Density). Be sure to call the program by typing HWS␣ (after the A> prompt), instead of WS␣. Also, you should know that the AUTOST program will not automatically load HWS as it does WS. If you like the help level change, the safe thing to do is to go back through the install procedure, giving HWS.COM as the "FILENAME TO BE INSTALLED" and WS.COM as the "FILENAME FOR SAVING INSTALLED WORDSTAR". You need not make any install changes; just answer Y to the question, "ARE MODIFICATIONS NOW COMPLETE?" David]*

I also have the new SuperCalc 2 and would like to use install to print compressed print. I have revised my copy shown on page 4 of the March 1984 **FOGHORN**, still no luck with the SuperCalc INSTALL program for my printer. TEC F10-40 (C. Itoh). Called Sorcim they said the problem was with the hex code for the printer but they could not help with the right ones, done [sic] some "try an try again" but none of the hex numbers we tried change anything on the printer. Also the "SETUP" option makes no change in the printer. We can first run Basic with LPRINT CHR\$(27);"E08", then reset and load SuperCalc, this works fine. In dBASE we have a mailing label program that works great for compress print (CHR(27)+"L[6"). Can you help us with this one? [*This sounds like material for Brad Albom's HELP column. As for the Setup options, you must type in the "key" equivalents of the hex codes, followed by a ␣. The keys you enter won't show on your screen. The problem, as I found out, is that the keyboard of the Osborne 1 won't send several of these ASCII keys (such as ~, ^, etc.). I know the answers to your printer problems are out there in the FOG membership somewhere, because I know that the F10-40 is a favorite. David]*

We also have a simple dBASE program to run One-UP labels and a dBASE program to run five across labels. Would this be of interest to anyone in the FOG group or do you have them both?

Some one also ask about evaluation on cooling fans, we installed the Ventaire from Creative Computer Products several months, it runs the better part of every day and works great, eliminates most of the Bdos Errors we were having.

One last thing, would like to up-grade our DD Osborne to an 80 Column display (Zenith Ext. monitor), do you have a recommendation, What about the Nuevo? [*I have one OCC and*

one Nuevo. I personally recommend the Nuevo; however, the OCC works fine with the Zenith monitor (with the width selection switch on the back). I don't know any others. David]

O.W. Bill Smith
Fremont, NE

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WordStar Tip

Hey, how come nobody told me about ^R? Oh sure, I know that it scrolls one screen, but what about its other functions? You didn't know either?

As it turns out, WordStar remembers the last file you edited and the last file you printed. Say you just prepared a document and ran it through your spelling checker (without leaving WordStar). You need to get back into the file to make some changes. Just type 'D', and when WordStar asks for the name of the file, hit ^R. WordStar will insert the name of the file for you. The same thing goes if you want to print a file more than once. OK, it's not a major tip, but it should save a few key strokes.

While I have your attention, I have a simple problem. I used one of the WordStar patch programs from the library to gain several options (smooth scrolling, short pauses, etc.). The patch also turns off the insert mode, but I prefer to have it on. What is the address for that patch, and what do I insert?

Finally, three cheers for banning OSMOSIS from advertising in the **FOGHORN**. I won't bore you with the details, but after taking every corrective step they suggested, my double density upgrade still doesn't work properly. I hope the "*Portable Companion*" will follow your lead.

Author Unknown

[*This "letter" got separated from the other material by the same author, during my normal editing operation. And, since there is no name on it . . . well, I've been over this problem before. Anyway, I think I know the name, but I'd hate to publish a wrong guess. David]*

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Questions about Buying a New System

I have a suggestion. Perhaps there have been comments on this subject that I have overlooked.

I would like to see an article addressing the subject of our ultimate need to move on to a new computer system, possibly a system with which our present data disks and Basic/WordStar/SuperCalc program disks are not directly compatible.

Two aspects need to be addressed: the actual means of software translation (re-copying, or whatever) to work on a, say, IBM-compatible machine, and the copyright aspects. We have paid for WordStar, etc., and ought to be able to retain them. If, however, this is not the case, you should start approaching the companies involved and work out a modest fee so we can all be honest.

Robert A. Kirkman
Palos Verdes Estates, CA

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Good Experience Should be Shared

I bought the J.G. Communications clock. I hooked it up and had it going and it was doing everything claimed. Operating instructions warned against warm booting any disk on which it had not been installed because that might crash the system. I called to find out how that might effect my use of Personal Pearl in which a disk is placed in the A drive during sort. Hitting return starts the sort operation and installing would interfere with that function.

Nobody was able to help me on that call and I waited a few weeks for an answer and then sent back the clock. By return mail I received a complete refund (including shipping) with the comment in a note that they now had the solution to the problem I had brought to their attention. I fully intend to repurchase that clock soon.

Some while back I bought Enhance from SUDDEN! Products group. Just recently I bought the 3.30 upgrade from MicroPro and when I tried to set it up with Enhance I got an error message saying that my WordStar file was "corrupt". I dropped a note to SUDDEN! asking whether they had an upgrade. A few weeks later I received a new Enhance program in the mail with a request that I return the old disk and \$3. The new Enhance will install any printer with every print command you can wish for ready to go. The blinking cursor and all the other features are also available. I can highly recommend it for the 3.30 WordStar.

In all, these are two excellent products which are outstandingly well handled by their sellers. I thought your readers should know.

Charles M. Hart
Cranford, NJ

* * * * *

Problems with WordStar 3.3 on Single Density

In May I received the new WordStar Update with the MailMerge option and found that I had serious problems with it. I have an Osborne with single density disk drives, and the documentation for installing the software was not helpful since it was general in nature and was not addressed specifically at Osborne users. I complained to the company and one month later received a printed update for Osborne users with both single and double density disk drives. Obviously there must have been others with similar problems. However, the two most serious problems I encountered, were not covered by the documentation update: lack of space to combine WordStar and MailMerge files on one disk, and limiting the user functions to four character sequences. My solutions to these problems may be helpful to others.

1. I use MailMerge quite a bit for multiple copies and long manuscripts. I was therefore disappointed when I found out that I could not fit the new WordStar and MailMerge programs onto one disk. My work files on the B drive are all full, so the solution which MicroPro suggests in its Update is not useful to me. Their solution is to pip MailMerge onto the work files on the B drive, a solution very costly in time and space. I experimented with the following and found that it worked well: I load the WS disk on Drive A and boot it in. When I want to use the

MailMerge mode "M", I exchange the WS disk in Drive A with the MailMerge disk which must contain the WSOVLY1.OVR file. After that, it is a matter of just typing m, and everything works fine.

2. The new WordStar Update eliminates a special feature of the old WordStar: the possibility to exceed the 4 character limit of the user functions by letting them overflow into the next one. This was the only way for me to use the German umlauts (a 6 character sequence). The new WordStar cut me off automatically after 4 entries. In the end I found a way out which might be useful to other readers: Taking the hint from the May issue of *FOGHORN*, I typed "+" at the Installation Menu which allowed me to go into the installation program. I chased down the hex address of the user functions on my old WordStar program (06d3h for user function 3). I changed the entry 04 to 06, which then allowed me to use the 6 character sequence 08/1b/3e/02/1b/3d. This is working fine now, but not thanks to MicroPro but to Jim Switz who wrote the "Miscellaneous Notes" in the May 1984 *FOGHORN*.

Ilse Newbery
Lexington, KY

* * * * *

Brother CE-50 Electronic Typewriter

As a member for only a few months, I am unable to find sufficient words to fully express my appreciation for your excellent publication. Information regarding a SuperCalc 2 problem covered in my first issue was, by itself, well worth the total annual subscription cost! (As a matter of information, I usually receive my copy of *FOGHORN* between the 8th and 12th of the month.)

For what it is worth to pass on, I have recently connected this Brother CE-50 electronic typewriter to my Osborne 1 DD via the Brother interface IF-50 and a Brother cable made for a TI99/4A. I found that this works beautifully (WordStar 2.26) with a setup of 300 Baud and the following: Any teletype-like printer, No communications protocol, CP/M List device. Although the cable has some different pin placement than my Okidata 82 cable, it works fine on the electronic typewriter without any changes from TI99/4A setup. No major problems have been encountered although it cannot underline, boldface, etc. which would require backspacing and overstrike.

Harvey H. Scheviak
Asheville, NC

* * * * *

Flat Screen Magnifier

While browsing at the local stationary store I came across a flat plastic fresnel lens just the right size for the O1 screen. It is sold under the name of ITOYA "POCKETLENS" and cost under five dollars. I was able to attach it with a clothespin, a toothpick and a short copper strap. It magnifies the screen enough so that I don't end up with eyestrain and terminal backache from bending over to peer at the screen.

Phil Pflager

* * * * *

MailMerge and dBASE II Suggestions

I have been writing to FOG since I got the idea of starting an Osborne user's group in Malaysia over a year ago, and I am now pleased to say that at last our club is about to receive Registration by the Registrar of Societies. (We hope.) By this time we have over 500 members, and have had 4 meetings, attended by from 160 to 50 members, depending on topic--for instance 50 came to hear about "Forth" and "Logo", while 100 came to hear about "Graphics". We have about 100 apple compatible computers, 25 Sinclairs, 25-30 Commodore/Vics, 10 IBM compatibles, and many other types in ones and twos, including 14 Osbornes--including mine!

I am a keen reader of *FOGHORN*. I would like to contribute the following two ideas for beginners.

Mailing lists. When I have to stop MailMerge in the middle of a list, particularly with av's involved, it is very time consuming getting back to 'page 100' or wherever you left off. So I now just use the block move command to shift all the completed addresses from the front of the file to the bottom, leaving the address/name I want to start with as the top of the list. Simply mark the top of the completed list (in WordStar) with ^KB, the last address completed with ^KK (at the end of the address), then ^QC to shift the cursor to the end of the file, ^KV to shift the marked, completed addresses to the end of the file, ^KH to 'fix' them there, and ^KD to save the lot, ready to start at the next, unused address next session.

The other idea is for dBASE II. Bob Weaver, in the July issue, gives a search program to find items in a dBASE file of magazine articles. I believe it is easier to use a simple search command.

Setup the file the same way--i.e., a single field database, text, type c, width whatever you want. Fill it with anything you want to remember and find again--recipes, books and authors, magazine data, anything. When you want to find a topic, or all entries involving, say fishing, you open dBASE, use your 'memory file', and type:

.DISPLAY TEXT FOR 'FISH' \$ TEXT

and out comes every entry with FISH somewhere in the text. This includes FISHing, kingFISHer, FISHerman, and so on, but for most of us, it would be a successful retrieval. I guess you could ask for a more specific string, such as:

.DISPLAY TEXT FOR 'HANDY GUIDE TO FISHING' \$ TEXT

to find this specific entry, but I find that unless your long entry is exactly the same as what is stored, it will not be found--e.g. if your file entry had been "Handy G to Fishing", the above long command would miss it, whereas the shorter one would have brought it out in the display.

I would welcome an article or series of articles about elementary use of peek/poke and shifting/altering instructions stored in command files and system disks. For instance, I am not confident about starting out on any of the programs in the July issue's "System Notes", because I need a little bridging and no doubt very elementary, information to start on, say, George Joseph's Toggle for Arrow Keys. Do I just start by typing BEL,LF,CR,BDOS--using WordStar, and then what??? I

note similar comments from other contributors, who also do not follow these excellent and apparently useful listings--If only we could understand how to 'jump the understanding gap', we would be happy to use the data.

I would be happy for you to name our club in your magazine. We are a long way from California, and Osborne spares do not exist. I am looking for two EXMONS for external monitors, and would welcome a circuit diagram, if this is available, as I doubt if the actual exmon will be available here or in Singapore anymore. If you publicize our club, vendors may send us literature, and with 500+ members we are always looking for a service to offer, or new software, hardware, and gadgets.

Keep up the good work. I read *FOGHORN* cover to cover, and hope one day to understand all the listings.

P.S. Our Club meets once in a month to six weeks, so any visitors to Kuala Lumpur should phone me for details of future meetings.

C. A. Wade

Founding President and Secretary
Kuala Lumpur Micro-Computer Club

P. O Box 12132

Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

Phone: 925052

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A Hint about Upgrades

My Ozzie is getting to be a bit of an eyesore. But I still like its ugly [?] face. It has a Korean Apple-clone fan screwed onto its top, and the drives don't match, and the tiny monitor has been extracted to let the thing run cooler in my non-air-conditioned office. It suits me just fine, and those MS-DOS tarts that have taken Ozzie's place down at the local dealers . . . well, they don't turn my crank enough yet to get me to part with the 8-bit beast.

But when I sent off a bag full of money for the 384K Drive C:, I expected a new era when I unpacked the Drive C: — but the darn thing just wouldn't work. Nothing. Just a lot of mess. Phone calls to Drive C: didn't help. Nice folks. No help. Try this. Try that. Nothing works.

After trying the Drive C: on my other Ozzie, I figured it out. The Drive C: won't work on dismembered Osbornes. The 5" monitor must be in place. Moral: before you use a Drive C:, put your Osborne back together like the way it came from the factory. Learn from the mistakes of others — you don't have enough time to make them all yourself.

Reilly Burke
Vancouver, BC, Canada

[A good time to remind one and all that sometimes the smallest little trick that you just learned can save someone else hours of aggravation, large phone bills, or needless repair charges! So take the extra couple of minutes to send a report for the FOGHORN — maybe the next time it will be you who is helped. — Gale Rhoades.

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Nuevo Double Density

Seems like there is trouble in the world of upgrades. Not for me. Nuevo Electronics advertised a Double Density upgrade with a 90 day warranty and a 30 day money back guarantee. What could I lose? As it turned out, I won handsomely. The upgrade is first quality. The installation and operator's manual is perfect for me, a total stranger to the interior workings of a computer. I did read the full 15 pages of the manual before I picked up the screwdriver. I would strongly recommend this approach. It helps to build your confidence in attacking this installation. Following their directions step by step made the whole job easy and reassuring. The directions and pictures are so clear that there is no wondering, "did I do that right?". One suggestion: Nuevo sends a disk to help you check your disk speed before doing anything else. Check the speed. If it is off, have it adjusted, as Nuevo recommends. It is worth it. I am very glad there is a Nuevo out there who has not given up on us and is sending first class products. I am now waiting for the 80 column upgrade. They also indicated in the manual that they are developing some other upgrade products.

Frank Nelson
Ellicott City, MD

Dear FOGHORN

I have followed with some interest the discussions in *FOGHORN* about OSMOS-5 80-column up-grade, trying to customize WordStar, and eliminating some of the annoyance with AUTOST, and include here some of my findings.

1. I am satisfied with the OSMOS-5, even though there are a few shortcomings. I do wish I could boot to B: with shift "", and SuperCalc is still waiting for some answers.

2. I am enclosing a list of WordStar functions which I hope might be helpful, although I have as yet not discovered the meaning of several of the labels. I have included my settings for an EPSON RX-80. (I have varied some of these for use with a SWINTEC electronic typewrite used on the serial port.) [See John's list in the *SYSTEM NOTES* section. David]

3. I bravely dug in and made my own changes to AUTOST, which seems to me to work well for what I do. I did find that when using MBASIC, I could shorten the filename for the program to M.COM and include the name of my own program (as long as the total did not exceed 8 characters) and then boot right into running the program - i.e., M^PROG would call up MBASIC and run a program named PROG.

I hope some of these observations might be helpful!

John Wilcox

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Use SUBMIT.COM

It seems that many have overlooked a handy way to break out of a submit routine. You DO NOT have to hit "reset" to stop execution of a submit file (doing so only delays the execution of the rest of the commands, as the \$\$\$SUB file remains on the disk to continue execution upon the next boot of that disk).

An easy (and documented) solution is to hit ^ - (CONTROL HYPHEN) while at the CP/M level between commands in the SUB file. Then SUBMIT.COM will automatically cease execution of the SUBMIT file, erase the \$\$\$SUB file, and return you to the CP/M "A>" prompt.

Another fact to keep in mind about SUBMIT.COM is that if any of the commands in your SUBMIT file have a dollar sign such as:

STAT B:*. * \$R/O

Then the only way it will work is to include 2 (two) dollar signs in the SUBMIT file that you write such as:

STAT B:*. * \$\$R/O

This is because of the use of the dollar sign to assign variables in the use of SUBMIT.COM.

Try playing around with SUBMIT.COM and you will find ways to really save time. Frequently, it beats any function key setup you can come up with.

Neil Halava
Mammoth Spring, AK

TRS-80 Model 4P Compatibility

I know OCC's back and going to do great but during the intern period when no one knew if they were going to survive or not, I found myself in the need of an additional computer for use in my office. We had the Osborne 1 DD and were pleased with it. But, Xerox was not cheap to say the least on their service and I was kinda' scared to buy another Osborne via OCC and not be absolutely certain I would get it.

Oh what to do? I found the answer at a local user group. A buddy of mine had the TRS-80 Model 4 and used Montezuma Micros CP/M for the TRS-80 Model 4. This version of CP/M comes with a great program called INTERCHG.COM which enables you to configure the B disk drive as any of 20 some odd different computer disk formats including Osborne SD and DD (DD covers both the Executive and the OZ-1). I took a few diskettes over to his place and voila! His Model 4 was able to read them with no problem. My big concern was dBASE II as we used a complex program that I had written over a period of several months to enable us to use the Osborne for order entry, accounting, inventory control and other data maintaining functions necessary in a small business. It worked, I could transfer the dBASE CMD and DBF files with no trouble.

We purchased the TRS Model 4P(portable) and now keeps its B disk drive permanently configured as an Osborne DD. You can configure the CPM system diskette to automatically start the B disk off as an Osborne DD. We now use the Osborne at one work station and the TRS at the other and come the end of the day, we simply append the results of one to the other

which we maintain as the master (always with backups of course). I did have to switch from SC2 as my spreadsheet to MultiPlan as I was unable to find a version of SC2 which I could use on the TRS-80. WordStar was no problem, readily available for the Radio Shack computer.

For anyone looking to maintain transportability between two computers, this route makes a lot of sense. Service is available at any Radio Shack store and not as expensive or hard to find by a long shot as for the Osborne.

I'm not anti-Osborne, just wanted some compatibility at time when it seemed a little hard to come by. Now we're getting along just super with our OZ and our half OZ, the Model 4P.

Thought someone else might like to know. [Ed. Note: Now we have great programs for the O1 and EXEC like Media Master and Uniform that will do the same format transfer.]

Jerry Shepherd

Osborne Screen Dump

Jimm Conn's graphics dump in Sept '83 *Portable Companion* doesn't work, even after removing the dim video routine that causes the system to crash. Has anyone got a decent public domain screen dump that handles graphics (Osborne) and ASCII?

David Donnelly
Livermore, CA

Traveling By Air With the OS-1

For the most part, traveling by air with my Ozzie has been uneventful, and just a bit inconvenient. With most commercial air lines having retrofitted their cabins with enclosed overhead compartments I no longer have to use Ozzie as a foot rest. And, I have found most gate attendants to be willing to perform a manual inspection of both my computer and my diskettes.

Recently, however, my travel agency tried to save me some money by routing me through one of the lesser traveled airports in the Tampa area. My request for manual inspection was refused unless the gate attendants could see inside the unit. At major airports that has always meant a quick peek at the keyboard but these folks wanted to see INSIDE. Not having a long-shafted screw driver in my pocket, and running late, I was not able to satisfy them and, NO... they were not about to assume any liability. With my baggage in the plane and Ozzie and I waiting at the X-Ray booth it appeared that only the former would make the trip to New Orleans. Finally, another gate attendant waived me out to the plane where I found that the captain was willing to let Ozzie ride with him.

I would like to see some definitive information in this publication regarding the pros and cons of X-ray inspection of both OS-1's [or any other computer, Ed] and diskettes. And, until we hear from those "in-the-know", I would suggest that air travelers stand their ground on this matter of X-ray inspection.

David W. Aukamp
Dunedin, FL

A Too Early Blue Case 0-1?

We have an Osborne 1, single density. I asked about an 80 column upgrade at Computerland, where I had bought it, and they said mine was too early. I have a "blue" case.

I ordered an 80-column upgrade from Nuevo. The results are interesting. My amber Gorilla monitor does display 80-columns. However, the characters are in a constant state of vibration which is hard on the eyes.

I called Nuevo several times about another problem. I absolutely could not get our Osborne to format a disc. The gentlemen at Nuevo said he had four other complaints, but all with the earlier "tan" case models.

He suggested I get a CP/M disc which had not been sysgened or otherwise altered to go with the Nuevo 80-column upgrade, which I did. I had one stored in our bank box so went and got it and can format discs with it.

Has anyone else had these two problems?

Ione R. Card Smith
Midwest FOG

Thanks, plugs, and comments

First, thank you for another interesting issue, in which I note with pleasure the increasing level of support for the Executive. I have had my Exec since May 1983, and would not trade it for anything available today (under \$5000). The one problem I have experienced, 10-15% of the time, is video wavering. Overjoyed to see "fixes" for this in the May issue, I found a technically competent friend to watch me install a 47-ohm resistor in the fan circuit jumper. This does indeed slow the fan down: the machine runs a little warmer, but I like the quieter operation. Jim Switz reports (June issue) that it has solved the wavering problem in 8 or 10 cases. However, I continue to see wavering, just about as often as before. I wonder whether it might be solved by some other circuit modification, or by making sure all connections are tight in the video circuitry, or by shielding the CRT yoke from the fan? Any ideas would be welcome.

It's great to see that the Exec technical manual is out at last. Thanks for your warning of the alternate-character bug in the new updated BIOS; I don't think I'll try to buy it, having long ago gotten around the original printer bug with an external printer buffer.

Here is an assortment of mini-reviews. First, for programmers: I've found a great book for the novice interested in programming in 8080 assembler: Ken Barbier's *CP/M Assembly Language Programming* from Prentice-Hall. It's weak on the instructions themselves, particularly the less common ones, but strong on how to use the BDOS for I/O, which is essential; and it has many good examples to follow. I'd also like to put in a plug for Software Toolworks' fine (and inexpensive) C compiler and Kernighan & Ritchie's *The C Programming Language*. I haven't had to use MBASIC now for . . . almost long enough. And I once wanted to buy BASCOM! The Media Master disk read/write/format program from DG/Systems is another excellent buy, and easy to use. Now I wonder how I did without the ability to use "other" people's disk formats.

I am including on this diskette several programs of my own for the FOG library. These include FTNOTE, a footnoting and formatting utility for WordStar files; ETERM, a modem program (for the Exec) designed for online conferencing; EDRAW.LBR, a "medium resolution" drawing package for the Exec; and a complete character set (for the Exec video and an Okidata printer) for the APL programming language.

Eric Meyer
Bloomington, IN

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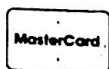
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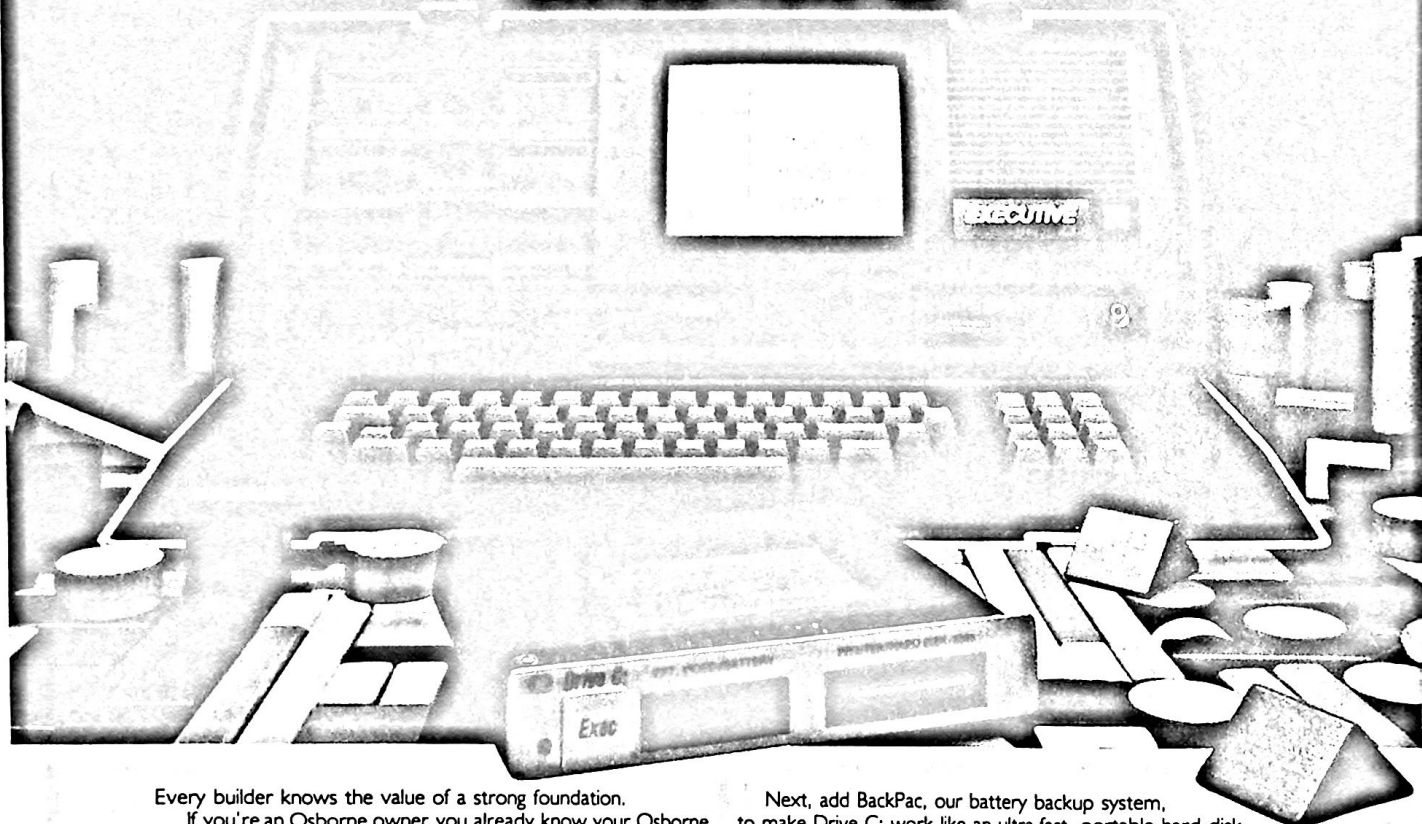
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We call it Drive C:.

What is Drive C:?

Drive C: is a RAM-disk that adds speed and storage capacity to your Osborne. It instantly improves SuperCalc, WordStar, dBASE II and all your CP/M programs.

Drive C: is a Print Buffer that lets you compute and print at the same time.

Drive C: is powerful software like QuickPac that gets you up and running with a single keystroke, and Archive that stores the giant 376K files you can build on Drive C:.

Built with hi-speed RAM chips and sophisticated electronics, Drive C: is silent, reliable and fast. Perfectly tailored to fit your Osborne, Drive C: installs in seconds without any tools.

Build big on an Osborne budget

Any one of these single features is worth the low cost of Drive C:. But with Drive C: you get them ALL in one package for the same low cost. For either the Osborne I or the Executive.

CompuMagic's ManyKey is also included FREE with every 384K Drive C:.

Build your own system solution!

Here's how it works.

Start with the 192K Drive C:, our lowest cost building block. For more speed, power and capacity move up to the 384K unit.

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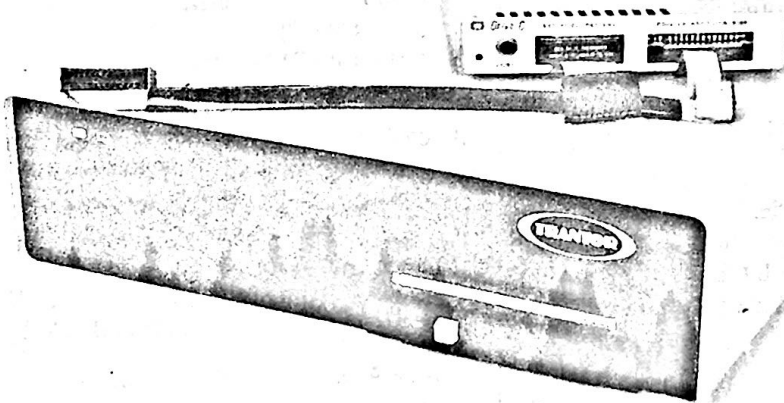
City

State Zip

Mail to: Drive C:, 1690 65th Street Emeryville, CA 94608

TRADEMARKS: Drive C: — Drive C:, QuickPac, Archive, BackPac, TurboPac/Trantor Systems Ltd. — Trantor/OCC — Executive/CompuMagic — ManyKey/MicroPro — WordStar/Sorcim — SuperCalc/
 Ashton Tate — dBASE II

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TRADEMARKS: Drive C:-Drive C:, TurboPac/Trantor Systems Ltd.-Trantor/OCC-Osborne 1, Executive/CompuMagic-ManyKey

BIOS Patch to Increase Drive Speed

This is a note on the patch BIOS to increase drive speeds per your May, 1984 issue with the subsequent correction in July, 1984.

A safe method to implement this change follows. An area in BIOS reserved for an extra translation table is used (20F8H in the SYSGEN copy, E278 in active BIOS). Using the May article to get BIOS into DDT:

-A20F8 ↵

20F8 MVI A, 1 ;USE 1 FOR SEIMENS OR 0 FOR MPI DRIVES

20FA STA EF13 ;SAVE VALUE IN SEKDEL

20FD JMP E4FB ;GO TO COLD START ADDRESS

2100 . ↵

-A 1F80 ↵

1F80 JMP E278 ;GO TO DISK SPEED ROUTINE

1f83 . ↵

Now follow the rest of the May article.

New problem. Does anyone know how to implement Memory mapped video into WordStar with the 80-Column update and use 80 columns in WordStar so the line flag characters are visible on screen all the time?

Merril Esher
Tempe, Arizona

* * * * *

TURBO Pascal; AOK.ASM

Reading through my first issue of *FOGHORN* I see a number of questions that I can answer for your readers. First I would like to address the problem of finding a Pascal compiler for the Osborne 1 and Executive. I have found the TURBO Pascal compiler (Borland International, 4807 Scotts Valley Drive, Scotts Valley, California 95066) to be an excellent product. There was some problem implementing this compiler on the Executive, but according to Borland, OCC now has available an updated ROM that will make the Execs compatible with TURBO.

TURBO supports all the standard Pascal commands plus system calls and inline assembly language. It features very fast compilation and execution. The package includes a WordStar-like editor and generates .COM files directly without a separate linking phase. At under \$50 you sure can't beat the price. [*FOGHORN has published two reviews*]

Next, I would like to reply to Neil McCubbin's query about "flippies". I have been punching my diskettes and using them as "flippies" for the past 6 months and have not had a single disk fail after it was initialized. I make the above qualification, because I usually buy single density, single sided diskettes and then punch them and use both sides for double density service. Since the manufacturers do not check the back side of these diskettes, I have had about 5% that required the use of FINDBAD to block out a bad sector on the back side. If I was a disk manufacturer I would certainly recommend that nobody use "flippies" and everybody buy lots of my diskettes (especially the most expensive grades).

As a last suggestion, I would like to address David Oates' problem of creating a file with special characters to initialize his Okidata printer. A very simple way to solve that problem is to use the ASM.COM assembler. For example, say I wanted to create a file containing the character string abc^DE^@HiJ^I, I would create the following assembly language program (using the N mode of WordStar):

```
DB 'abc'
DB '^'-40H ; ^^
DB 'DE*'
DB '@'-40H ; ^@
DB 'HiJ'
DB ']' -40H ; ^]
DB 'I' -40H ; ^I
END
```

As can be easily seen from the above, control characters are represented by the non-control character minus 40 Hex.

After you edit this simple file, you must assemble it and link it. If you've never used ASM.COM this may seem to be a fierce task, so let me step you through it.

If your file that you created using WordStar was called "AOK.ASM" then to assemble and link it you would type:

ASM AOK
Link AOK

I hope that solves a few problems. See you next issue.

Howard Gerber
Houston, TX

* * * * *

Public Domain Rip-off (?)

I have strong evidence that public domain software is being sold for profit. Following are excerpts from a flyer put out by:

Profile Computer Systems, Inc.
2509 S.W. 59th Street
Oklahoma City, OK 73119
Phone: 405-682-3606

	PRICE RETAIL	DEALER
SQUEEZE & UNSQUEEZE	9.95	2.99
SWEEP	19.95	5.99
UNERA	9.95	2.99
PASSWORD	12.95	3.89
XMODEM	15.95	4.79
FINDBAD	9.95	2.99

and so on. Brief descriptions are given with each program which fit the public domain programs perfectly. This guy apparently isn't even smart enough to RENAME the programs. Please pass this file around — I hope the copyright owners can do something about this situation.

Anonymous

* * * * *

TIPS FOR TYROS

Ground Ozzie for Performance

by David S. DeShon

Have you seen the pictures of Osbornes here, there and everywhere — even on mountain tops? This may suggest that a go anywhere, do everything computer is insensitive to the juice that feeds it. Not so. You need voltage close to that specified in the Manual.

What about that ground wire? My manual makes no special case for grounding. That ground wire is for safety — right! Maybe you are like me and have used two prong adapters safely for years. With Ozzie, its not simply a matter of safety. Performance is linked to that ground prong. There are about a half dozen wires inside that go just to the “extra” ground. I’ve noticed one evil and one annoying consequence of no ground. Static “zap” is infinitely more troublesome with no ground. That’s evil. The characters on the screen “lean over” — like italics. That’s weird. I don’t know what else happens in the long run, but I’ve been absolutely convinced of the importance of that “extra” ground wire. Sometimes in older buildings a bad outlet is replaced with a newer, 3-hole versions — but the ground really isn’t connected. It just accepts Ozzie’s plug without adapters. That’s not good enough. If you’re not sure of your ground, have it checked.

Keeping it Clean

by Tom Vyse

cleanliness is next to High Fidelity.

- Dr. Herman Horne

Peanut Butter is the arch foe of data integrity.

- Melvin Blotnik

One thing which is never mentioned in the Osborne manual, and is not immediately obvious to the new compute user, is that the heads of your disk drives will need to be cleaned periodically. This is just about the only routine maintenance that your machine will need. If you manage to keep the same disk drives alive for a couple of years or so, they will probably need to be lubricated. Otherwise the only maintenance enemy you will have will be grit. And grime. And peanut butter.

Keeping the drives clean is really pretty easy. You just buy a kit to do it (I bought mine locally for about \$20) and follow the directions. The kit consists of a stiff cloth diskette in a sleeve and some cleaning fluid. You wet part of the cloth with the

fluid, put it in your disk drive, close the door, let it sit for a minute, then try to boot from that drive. The drive motor will spin the drive until you press the RESET button. Let it go for a few seconds. Your drive head is now clean. You should do this about once every couple of months or so. There are some pre-moistened cleaning diskettes available. You use them once then throw them away. Their per use cost is a lot higher, so I would recommend the cleaning kit over that type.

Dirt can destroy your diskettes and drives faster than almost anything. Here are some cleanliness guidelines you can keep in mind. Never eat or have any food you could spill around your computer. The oils and bits of food you have on your fingers will eventually make it onto your floppies. Cigarette smoke is also a killer of diskettes. The same brown haze that accumulates on a smoker’s walls and windows will accumulate on the diskette’s recording surface as well. This will gum up the works worse than almost anything else. Except peanut butter.

HOT TIP: Well, not really, but it’s worth reading. Have you ever had trouble getting write protect tabs or gummed labels to come off your floppies without leaving a mess? Next time try soaking the label with some cigarette lighter fluid (naphtha) and it will peel off easily. You can then clean up any gummy residue with the same stuff and wipe it clean with a tissue. Don’t let any of the fluid get onto the diskette surface as it will carry some of the adhesive with it. This technique also works well with gummed price labels that come on store bought items. Some people already know this tip, but some do not. If you already do, you don’t need to read this. Thanks.

• • • • •

Stripping Variables in MBASIC

from Mike Kahny

Having been reading *FOGHORN* for over a year now, (pretty slow reader huh), I find myself saying, “Hey, I knew that!”, more and more. This leads me to believe that I am being selfish in that I will take tip after tip from fellow readers but I will do nothing to let other readers in on what I have learned. So here is a tip that I found and wish to share with you.

Problem: Delete trailing spaces from variables that have been gotten from random access files. (The command in dBASE is TRIM)

Example: Variable CITY\$=“CINCINNATI ”. It contains five (5) trailing blank characters, so if you wished to print out this variable followed by a comma and another variable as in [CINCINNATI, OH]. Instead it would print [CINCINNATI , OH].

Solution: Run the variable through a subroutine as follows. (CITY\$ is the variable to delete trailing blanks on)

```
10 CITY$="CINCINNATI "
20 :$=CITY$:GOSUB 50:CITY$=$
30 END
50 $=$$ " " :$=LEFT$(X$(INSTR(X$, " "))-1):RETURN
```



Explanation: First I store the variable to be trimmed as X\$, then it is run through the subroutine that adds three more blanks to the end. It then finds the first occurrence of three blanks in a row in that variable (X\$), subtracts one (1) from that number and takes that many characters, starting from the left, of the variable (X\$). After this it will return to where the subroutine was called from. Here it will store the variable X\$ back into the CITY\$ variable name.

The reason for using the X\$ variable is so you can use the same subroutine from more than one place in the program. (If anyone knows how to do this in a defined function, please let us all know.)

Draw Back: There is one problem to this solution. If the variable you are trimming would contain three or more embedded blanks, such as (Y\$="SPACED OUT"), it will delete the characters after the first occurrence of the three blanks in a row. However I have yet to have such a variable need trimming.

Using the FOG RBBS-RCPM Systems by Bond Shands

I live a few miles from the FOG office and am a frequent user of Bulletin Boards #1 and #3. I quickly learned that both boards may be accessed using my COMM-PAC modem at 300 baud and often use my daily 1-hour limit to download lots of software of every variety — The FOG library is one of the largest and most complete of any RCPM board in the country. Earlier this year I acquired both a 10-meg Trantor Hard Disk and the hoarding instinct of every indecent hard disk owner to fill all that space as quickly as possible — And, did I ever! Since the FOG systems are also run on Trantor Hard Disks, I tended to take for granted many of the peculiarities of the FOG hard disk organization and only recently came to understand that this constitutes a source of confusion to many users. Somewhere along the way, I also discovered that the size of the FOG library itself and the difficulties in separating the "important" from the "trivial", lend themselves to frustration and confusion. So, pen in hand (WordStar on the screen, if you will), I immediately decided to explain all (naive me!) and have now settled for an attempt to explain a little.

All the FOG boards are similar and consist of three main components:

- 1) Login messages and user ID/password verification
- 2) RBBS — the Remote Bulletin Board System for messages to the FOG Sysop, public users and private communications to another user
- 3) RCP/M — "Members Only" access to the Remote CP/M A0> prompt and — THE FOG ONLINE DISK LIBRARY! Using CTRL-K anywhere between the "Enter number of Nulls" initial sign-on message and the RCP/M A0> prompt causes a skip to the next paragraph of the message

and is a good way to bypass Gale's very informative, but very lengthy sign-on messages (sorry Gale, the Devil made me say it.) I usually use CTRL-K about 4 or 5 times while skipping thru, hoping the Sysop hasn't made a major change in her message text which I should be reading.

[Now I have started dating the bulletins so you only need to read what is new since your last call — As always, I attempt to accommodate all suggestions, complaints, requests, etc. — Gale]

Login messages and user ID/password verification are just that. The login messages identify the name of the board, who operates it (FOG) and what to do if you are not an authorized user and wish to become one. The rules are really very simple but need to be followed for an orderly and legal operation.

The first time you call, you have to enter your name. Once the system has checked to be sure that the name does not already exist in the user file, it will ask what city and state you are calling from and will give you a chance to verify the information. The system will then ask that you enter a password. This password may be up to 8 characters (any character your keyboard can generate with the exception that the first character **may not** be a numeric). You will be asked to enter this password twice to be sure that you entered what you thought you entered. The system will then tell you to **remember** this password. The last step of this new user registry will be for the system to assign your USER ID. The USER ID is your unique user number (for each system) plus your password. There are no spaces separating the user number and your password. (i.e. assume my RBBS number is 184 and my password is Doggy, my login ID code would be 184DOGGY). I would now enter 184DOGGY as my user ID in place of my name each time I login (sorry, 184DOGGY is not my real login though). Congratulations, you are now a part of the FOG RBBS "for members only" inner circle of the RBBS-RCPM system (unless you failed to renew your membership dues on time).

Until you follow the procedure for becoming a registered user for **each** system, you will only be allowed to read the messages and bulletins. To enter messages and to use the RCP/M portion of the system, you must follow the guidelines posted on each system. This requires that you exit the system with the command "G" or "GOODBYE" and then enter a comment consisting of your name, address and FOG membership number. The FOG office and/or sysop will shortly verify your membership (usually within 3 to 5 days) and the next time you login you will have access to the RCP/M system and will be able to enter as well as read the messages. If you have waited a reasonable amount of time between the first and second call, leave another comment for the sysop. It is possible that:

- 1) You accidentally omitted some of the required information
- 2) The gremlins ate part of the file
- 3) The sysop and/or the office was swamped and unable to get verification of your membership status.

Once you've logged on and made it past the password verification routines you will receive messages alerting you to the loading of the Bulletin Board System (RBBS). FOG's is called

"Heavy Metal" and was purchased from the authors, Tim Geary and Byron McKay of PicoNet. Remember that word METAL, for it's also used as a command — For when you eventually get to the RCP/M A0> prompt and decide you want to return to the message board, the secret command is METAL. Heavy Metal is the system which allows you to read, save, delete and leave messages which may be tacked up on the caller's screen (one at a time) like a bulletin board. To help you use it's features, Heavy Metal has (at last count) 25 commands with which you will want to become familiar. If you've not done so already, place your modem software in its ASCII text capture mode and at the message

(? or HELP for help) Command:

prompt, enter the ? (question mark) for the list of commands. After you've read (and captured) the list of commands, you will want to enter the command RP to begin reading all messages since your last call — Or, if this is your first call, then you will see all messages starting with #1. The lowest numbered messages on the system are usually important since they provide specific instructions about using the bulletin board and finding your way through the RCP/M system. Ignore them at your peril — or at least to your frustration!

Now, back to the RBBS bulletin board. To enter a message, enter an E at the prompt. If what you have to say is not personal, don't mark it Private — Make your message Public, that way someone may see it before the sysop does and you may receive a faster reply. I usually race to answer the questions of others which I myself once asked and still remember the answer to. And, if you happen to see a message for help and believe you have a solution, don't hesitate to leave an answer yourself. After all, the whole concept behind FOG is helping each other.

If your message is not for a specific person, address it to ALL and you will be assured of a good chance at receiving an early reply (or even replies). Before you leave the bulletin board, if you've been using your modem to capture ASCII text off the screen, be sure and enter the command to close both your buffer and file. For when you exit to the RCP/M A0> prompt you will want to be in MODEM mode — If you're not and you attempt to upload or download a file, nasty things may happen to both you and our precious member-owned system.

One final word about messages. When you login and find messages address to you waiting, after reading them be sure and answer Y (for yes) to the delete message option. That way you won't end up re-reading the same stale prose the next time you login and the message will no longer take up valuable disk storage space. Old messages are like bulk rate mail — Dispose quickly before contamination sets in.

At the Heavy Metal (don't forget that word METAL if you want to return to the RBBS bulletin board) message

(? or HELP for help) Command:

prompt, enter either C or J to leave Heavy Metal and enter the FOG RCP/M system. If you're already familiar with the next series of text messages, you can use CTRL-K to skip quickly to

the RCP/M A0> prompt and the threshold of THE LIBRARY. It's all there folks (if you're on RBBS #1, the "Big Board"), all 33 megs just waiting and ripe for the picking . . . well, almost. It's there but not much seems to be visible. First you do a DIR52 *.* \$L or DIR80 *.* \$L (or DIR52 B:*.* \$L or DIR80 B:*.* \$L) and there's a few files, but where's the rest? Aha! Enter USER 1 and try the DIR commands again. Right, more files. And again . . . more files. Then you might try the same thing for USER 2 and then USER 3, but just how far does this thing go? Well, there is a better way.

Try using the command SECTION or SECTION ?. You will see that there is a special name for USER 0 Drive A (called A0:), USER 0 Drive B (called B0:), USER 1 Drive A (A1:), etc. The section names are sometimes very descriptive but for others it is best to use the SECTION ? command which not only lists section names, but includes a short descriptive sentence next to each name which may be more helpful. And, using SECTION plus the full SECTION-NAME will automatically transfer you to the drive and user number area of the specified SECTION-NAME. So, the SECTION command is a good way to gain an overview of the system and, if you like, provides an easy way to move to that section.

Another good command is the FIND *.* which will show you all the files on all the drives including all member files in the .LBR files. (You may end up seeing more than you really bargained for). Try it though, particularly if you're using the ASCII text capture feature of your modem software. One more thing about Section names is that they vary between the RBBS systems. Since not all the systems are of the same size, there will be fewer sections named on a small system and, of course, more sections on the larger ones. Also, Section names are defined by the SYSOP who may decide to change them without notice.

Each of the FOG boards contains a copy of the XMODEM upload/download program for your use. With it you may either upload (send to FOG) a program or download (receive from the FOG board) a copy of almost any program or file, subject to only two restrictions:

- 1) XMODEM will not transmit any file whose filename extension ends with .COM2) XMODEM will not send you any file whose transmission time is computed at greater than 30 minutes.

The answer to the first XMODEM restriction about .COM files is rather simple. Any .COM file which you send to the system will automatically be renamed from .COM to .OBJ and any file on the FOG system which has an extension of .OBJ is really a .COM file hiding under an assumed name. All you do after downloading an .OBJ file is to rename it to .COM as in:

REN DIR.COM=DIR.OBJ

and XMODEM won't know or care.

The second XMODEM restriction about lengthy transmission times limits 300 baud modem users to downloading files of about 48K or less in size. The solution is to get yourself a 1200 baud modem if you want to download larger files. I know this sounds heartless, cruel and undemocratic . . . and it cer-



tainly is! Just one more case of the world's kindness to the rich while the rest of us must suffice with a "kick in the seat of the pants". You, my fellow 300 baud users, should unite and overthrow this tyranny — I'll stand behind you all the way!

As for the actual use of XMODEM, you can type XMODEM by itself and receive instructions about its use. There is also an XMODEM.HLP file which you can either type or access by typing HELP XMODEM (there are several files with the .HLP extension in the A0> area, any of which may be viewed by typing HELP plus the FILENAME — but no .HLP extension is needed). When you use XMODEM, be sure that your own software is in the MODEM compatible mode.

One odd thing you may notice about the files on the FOG board, is the large number which bear an .LBR extension. These are Library files created by the LU (Library Utility) public domain software. One good feature of the floppy disk system is the ability to have small files occupy small disk space blocks. Your CP/M floppy units create files in small 1k or 2k increments. However, hard disks are a little different and to work properly under CP/M, they may allocate space in 4K, 8K or even 16K increments depending upon the Hard Disk software design.

The 10 meg Trantor normally allocates space in 8K increments. This could mean a lot of wasted space if your file only needs a few K of space and it is locking up a full 8K — This is also true for larger files which need 9K but the next increment is 16K, again reserving a lot of unused and wasted space.

The .LBR files provide a way to overcome this space usage limitation of hard disks. An .LBR file is a library or shell covering or holding several files. The LU utility allows one to create a new .LBR shell and add as many (usually less than a 100) files to the .LBR as is desired. As far as the hard disk is concerned, the .LBR is only a single file even though it may contain many individual members. The result is that the .LBR libraries are a very space efficient way of storing files on a hard disk system. A 10 meg hard disk is limited (if using 8K file size increments) to 1024 files; although the same hard disk where all files are stored in .LBR libraries could conceivably hold 10,000 or more files.

The major disadvantage of .LBR files to the RCP/M user is that the members are not readily viewed using a simple DIR command. The Library .LBR files require a little work in that there are special utilities which must be used (and learned) to manipulate them with any degree of ease and familiarity. "This is not a user friendly system", you say? Well, to a degree that is true, but then you didn't buy your system because it's a glorified game machine. Since you're a fellow FOG member, I assume that you persevere in the face of any and all obstacles. After all, you've read this far haven't you?

So, now for the .LBR files. Pick one out and enter the command TYPE plus the full name of the file as in:

TYPE UTL#002.LBR ↵

You will now see a complete member directory of that file. Next enter the command

TYPE UTL#002 /UTL#002.DOC ↵

(most of the .LBR files with a # in their name also have a member document file). You will then see the descriptive text associated with the members of the entire .LBR file.

If the entire .LBR file is over 48K and too large for downloading with a single XMODEM command, write down all the member file names and use "XMODEM L UTL#002 Filename.Ext" to download them one member at a time (but don't forget that your total calling time is not supposed to exceed 60 minutes per day).

On the other hand, if you succeed in downloading an entire .LBR file as a unit, then you're going to need a way to get those members out of the .LBR in order to use them. You should then download either LU300.OBJ, DE-LBR.OBJ or LSWEET.OBJ, any one of which will allow you to extract members from the .LBR library. I would suggest that LSWEET.OBJ be your first choice since it is the easiest to understand, whereas LU300.OBJ is the "biggie" and needs several pages of documentation to describe its use. If all else fails, don't forget that you can leave a message on the METAL system BBS asking for help with your new files.

So, you've crossed thru the muck and here you are with all you need to know about the files on the FOG RBBS-RCP/M (or most other RCP/M's for that matter). Well, not quite. Those ingenious Sysops are still trying to conserve precious space on their hard disk systems. And, wouldn't you know it, they found another priceless gem to place in your path before you can use some of those files.

There's this nice set of not-very-identical twins called SQUEEZE and UNSQUEEZE. Have you noticed some files with a funny extension like .AQM or .DQM, all which seem to have a Q for the second letter. That's your clue that this is a squeezed file — Something that can't be read by man, woman, beast or even an Ozzie [*without NSWEET.COM! — Gale Rhoades*] until the darn thing has been UNSQUEEZED. SQUEEZE.COM (or SQ-16.COM or SQ111.COM or something beginning with SQ and ending with .COM) is the file you need to run to SQUEEZE a file and UNSQ.COM (or one variation beginning with a U and ending with a .COM) is a must to UNSQUEEZE one of those pesky things. And, don't forget, if you are to successfully download either SQUEEZE or UNSQ [*or NSWEET*], the filename extension must be .OBJ, otherwise, you're out of luck.

Actually, SQUEEZE has a good side for us 300 baud modem people. We would never be able to lay our electronic mits on a 90K document file or a similarly large Assembler source file, but if it has been squeezed it's probably going to be smaller than 50K and eligible for XMODEM downloading. So, there's a little good along with the bad.

I would like to offer a few suggestions for your first few sessions on the FOG boards. If you're interested in software, don't expect to do much by using your time for window shopping. For, you'll end up wasting your hour doing just that. There's a vast amount of software in our member-owned FOG Library with all of it on RBBS #1 and RBBS #3 and a lot on the newer boards which are going up fast.

Just looking over the contents will occupy much of your time. I would suggest that you either obtain a copy of the \$5.00

-LIBRARY.DOC from the FOG office, review all the Library notes in the monthly FOGHORN issues or else download the Library Documentation from the FOG board. My point here is that you should research before the names of those files which you would like to download. From one suggested source, read the file descriptions and make yourself a list of all the software in which you are interested.

Next, sign on to a smaller (and least used) board first. It usually has the newest material available and some of it should be on your list. After you've exhausted this source, then keep trying to get onto a bigger (and more popular) system to get the rest of your chosen material.

Another word of advice, is about Library organization. I recently discovered that there have been some changes in Library philosophy. In the past, if it ran on the Osborne I, the file usually ended up in the appropriate UTL, APP, HAK, MISC, GAM or LNG section of the Library and, presumably, if it ran only on the Executive, it was placed in the EX1 section. Well kids, the wind is now from the North and the new rule seems to be that if it runs on the Executive and was contributed by an Executive owner, it goes into the EX1 category without regard to whether it also runs on the Osborne 1. So, be sure and check the contents (and all recent additions) of the EXEC library category during your search for much of the software there is of the "plain-vanilla" CP/M variety which also will run on the Ozzy 01. *[This situation is being corrected as the new librarians become adjusted to the horrendous task of issuing new disks. — Gale Rhoades]*

My final suggestion to you is to remember the countless hours of hard work, most of it voluntary, which goes into making the FOG concept work so well for us all. Take a few minutes to leave a note of thanks for Gale Rhoades, the staff members and volunteers in the FOG office, the FOG Librarians, our Directors and Officers and all the others who contribute of their time and expertise and give us so much for our \$24 annual membership fee. I honestly don't think there's a better organization around anywhere in the world today.

Now that you've reached your 60 minute access limit for the day, please be sure and enter the command BYE to exit and logout. This allows the system to do a faster automatic reset in anticipation of the next caller.

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dBASE II 2.3b Patch

Why can't I remember to type "SET EJECT OFF"? My dBASE II came to me with the page eject default set on. So every time I did a report form, I had to wait for the printer to eject a page. The solution is to change the byte located at 435B from FF to 00. Use DDT to load dBASE.COM and look at the byte located at 435B. If it is FF, use the S command of DDT to change it to 00, then exit and save the file under another name. After you have tested it to make sure it runs OK, you can rename it and use it in place of the backup dBASE you were using.

Phil Pflager

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Introducing:

AUTOsetup

The program AUTOsetup was created by the needs of it's author, John Arcoleo of the New York Osborne User Group, when he upgraded to double density. He discovered it was difficult to get his previous twenty function keys of two single density disks onto one double density disk. He created a program which enables you to have multiple sets of user environments on one disk. AUTOsetup allows the user to configure his operating environment (all the parameters seen in SETUP.COM) and save several of these user environments to a disk file. Then, the user can recall with one command that particular environment for a specific software program.

AUTOsetup easily preforms the following:

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- changes screen size with one keystroke.
- autostarts any command on the disk.
- makes MPI drives run faster automatically.
- displays SETUP parameters to printer
- resets the computer from the keyboard
- shows space available on drive

AUTOsetup handles all these tasks while only using 4k of disk space. It replaces several existing programs for these functions therefore saving disk space and time. Since it was designed specifically for the Osborne 1 market, it is very user friendly. All options available are listed on a help menu. AUTOsetup is written in Z-80 assembly language and therefore is very fast in operation. In addition, it is compatible with enhancements to your Osborne: Drive C, the popular RAM disk, is fully supported. The user can also run AUTOsetup, inside of Wordstar, to read in new SETUP parameters. AUTOsetup is absolutely necessary for heavy function key users.

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ARTICLES

Database of "Portable Companion"

Articles and Ads

by Aaron P. Morris

PORTABLE.DTA is an index in the form of a data base of all the articles and most of the ads published in the *Portable Companion* to date (June '84).

The file is designed to be used with the program PCFILE. I have dBASE II and Personal Pearl, but I chose to use PCFILE since it is in the FOG library and therefore easily available to all members. PCFILE is a impressive program. If you haven't got a copy of it yet, by all means do so.

PORTABLE is designed to make it easy to quickly find all references to a given topic in all the issues of the *Portable Companion*. Let's say you've just bought a new Epson printer. You know there are several articles about interfacing the Epson, but finding them all could take awhile. By searching the PORTABLE data base, you will get a complete list of all references to the Epson printer.

Using the Database

Place a copy of PCFILE in drive A, and a disk with PORTABLE.DTA, PORTABLE.INX, PORTABLE.HDR and INDEX.RPT in drive B.

PCFILE asks, "Which drive for data?" Answer with B. It then asks, "File name?" Type in PORTABLE and press RETURN.

PCFILE then displays its main menu and asks, "Your command?" Select option 5.

PORTABLE has four fields in its data base. They are subject, issue, page and misc. Searches should be made on the 'subject' field. When a record is found, 'misc.' gives a little more information on the article or advertisement.

PCFILE now asks, "Field to search?" Type in SUBJECT (or just S) and press RETURN.

Now just type in the subject you are interested in. Always proceed your inquiry with a >. This searches the whole field for your key word or words. Without the > PCFILE only checks the first word of every record, and you will probably miss some entries. BE SURE TO TYPE EVERYTHING IN CAPITAL LETTERS.

Tips on Using PORTABLE and PCFILE

When searching for a record, always use the root word, or sometimes, just the first few letters of the word. For instance, if you enter "INTERFACING" you'll miss INTERFACE and INTERFACED. On the other hand, just "INTERFACE" will miss INTERFACING, so why not just enter "INTERFAC" or just "INTER". You'll pick up a few records that have nothing to do

with what you are interested in, but that's better than missing a crucial article.

Again, always use the > when searching. In other words, to search for information on modems, you'd type >MODEM. This slows down the search, but think of all the time you're saving by not having to thumb through all your *Portable Companions*. The longest search possible will take a little over a minute.

Using PORTABLE Without PCFILE

While you're waiting for your copy of PCFILE to arrive, you can use the search feature (^QF) of WordStar on the data base. This is cumbersome and slow, but it will work. Just enter the PORTABLE.DTA file and search for your topic using ^QF and then ^L over and over until you reach the end of the file. I always enter the file in the 'N' mode and exit using ^KQ to make sure I don't inadvertently corrupt the file.

Printing an Index

It should be an easy matter to print out an index to keep with your magazines. Just use PCSORT to sort the file into alphabetical order and then print it out. I was thinking about a data base and not an index when I created the file, so as an index it might not be as organized as it could have been.

More Tips

The *Portable Companion* is notorious for errors in program listings. Typically a listing will be given and then the next two or three issues will have corrections to the original. In other cases the original program was correct, but readers offered improvements in later issues. The moral to this story is to read the articles in reverse order. For instance, there are two or three articles on modifying the AUTOST program. Search PORTABLE for all the articles, and then read the most recent one first, working your way back to the original.

A Quick Look at

Database Design — dBASE II

by Ken Miles

[This article is going to be my first attempt at sharing some of the things I have learned since my purchase of an O-1 in February of 1982. I am currently interested in development of software products using dBASE II and it didn't take me long to learn just how small 183k disks are (current model is factory DD). I quickly exceeded the disk capacity when I was working on a simple personnel management package. I took some database courses at the NAVAL POSTGRADUATE SCHOOL and decided to apply some of the practices used on larger computers to my O-1. I am not an expert on anything, and I only know enough to be dangerous, but I want to contribute something to the FOGHORN since I have gained a lot from reading it.]

First, an explanation of dBASE II. dBASE II is known as a relational database program that provides us with the capability of creating and using a relational data base. The best way to view a relational database is as a large table of information

where the table consists of unique rows (called records in dBASE II) made up of segments called attributes (or fields in dBASE II). A database is thus a collection of these records that can be accessed in some manner.

The dBASE II commands available allow you to create, add to, delete from, manipulate, and make reports out of the database. I do not intend to go into all the dBASE commands in this article, however I will assume some knowledge of dBASE II on the readers part.

For the purpose of this article, and most micro systems, a single database is the same thing as a CP/M file so you can envision the file as a table of information as previously discussed. The file is then made up of records (rows) which should be UNIQUE gatherings of data. Each record should have an identity of it's own or else it probably is just repeating something contained elsewhere in the database. The fields that make up the record should all say something about that record that contributes to this uniqueness or perhaps the field isn't necessary in that record. More about this later. You will normally want a way to organize the database or keep track of the order items are stored in. This is done using KEYS. A key is the information in a field that would make that record absolutely unique and singular. Keys do not have to be only a single field, however. Multiple keys may be used and are known as combination keys. You could also have primary keys and secondary keys. A primary key would be the main selection criteria for the database and secondary keys could be used to find different items once the records were located.

Some of the things to consider in establishing a relational database are:

1. A file can contain only one record type. This means that each record in the file should contain the same number of fields or attributes and each attribute says something about that record. For example, a field assigned to indicate the sex of the person whose name is in a different field will normally contain a M or F, but in any case, it will ALWAYS describe the object of that record. In dBASE II all records will contain the same number of fields, so this aspect is 'automatic' and doesn't require special attention from the programmer.

2. Each record occurrence should have a way of UNIQUELY identifying feature to make that record be the one found when it is the one being looked for. As an example, we cannot uniquely identify a person by his last name and zip code because another person with the same last name could live in the same postal area. To identify this person we would probably need to include first and middle name and maybe even social security number as fields in the record.

3. Depending on the use of the file, the records may be ordered in the file by some method such as numerical or alphabetical sorting. It is not necessary to order on the primary key, but many times that will be the case. A mailing list could be ordered several ways depending on how the list was to be printed. An alphabetical listing is easiest for a person to look at but the post office would prefer a mailing sorted on zip codes. In dBASE II we have the option of SORTing on a field

(time consuming) or using INDEXes to keep fields ordered in some manner (quicker).

Now I will try to show you how to select the design of a database. First, you may not always want to keep everything you know about something in the same record, especially since in dBASE II a record can only contain 1000 characters. This could lead to a large problem of data redundancy. This means that a lot of storage space would be wasted keeping the same information that is kept somewhere else. As an example, suppose you wanted to keep track of three different suppliers who provided 20 items for your business. You might 'CREATE' your database like this:

ITEMNAME	C,15
SUPPLIER	C,20
ADDRESS	C,30
ZIP	C,9
PHONE	C,10
SALESMAN	C,20

As you can see, this would take 104 bytes of storage for each record. The 20 items would take 2080 bytes. This isn't too bad but what if you had 2000 items? The storage problem gets critical on a machine the size of an O-1 since we only have 183k of useable disk space and the 2000 items would need 208,000! So how do we get around this problem? If you look at the database fields we used, you will see that most of the data is just so we can locate the supplier of a particular part. So what if we gave the supplier a unique identifier such as a supplier number and put it in a field in the same record as ITEMNAME. Then we could create two separate databases to hold the same information we had in one database before. We would then locate the desired part in the first database and get the supplier number from that record. Then we could look up the rest of the information about the supplier in the other database. We would then have 'CREATED' the following:

ITEMNAME	C,15
SUPPLIERNUM	C,1

for a total of 32,000 bytes for 2000 records and

SUPPLIERNUM	C,1
SUPPLIERNAME	C,20
ADDRESS	C,30
ZIP	C,9
PHONE	C,10
SALESMAN	C,20

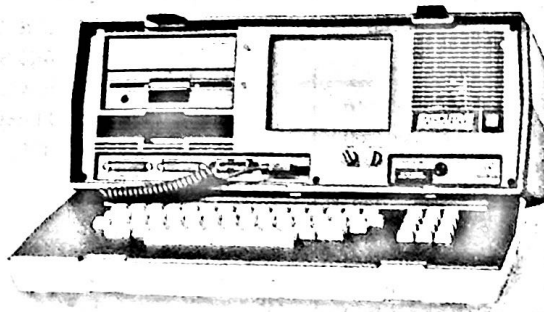
for a total of 270 bytes for the three suppliers. As you can see, the 32,270 bytes for 2,000 records is a lot nicer than 208,000 bytes for the same total of information kept. Of course if each part were provided by a different supplier this would not be a good way to keep the records since it would only add the supplier number to the database and it would not reduce redundancy.

Since nothing is ever free, we will pay a price for this reduction in storage space just discovered. I alluded to the problem when I talked about how we would get the supplier information out of the files. The number of 'look ups' has been increased



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and this means the number of times we have to go to the disk for reads. We have opened one file, looked up a record, retrieved the supplier number, switched to the other file, looked for the supplier number that matches the one we want, and finally we can do something with the supplier information. This can be a time consuming process and is the main problem of breaking the original database into two separate ones. If you happen to be flying on a hard disk you may not have a space problem, or if you do, the speed of disk accesses will reduce the access time problem. In dBASE II, you can also reduce the problem a little using 'SELECT PRIMARY' and 'SELECT SECONDARY' commands and the p. and s. which allow you to be in both databases at the same time.

Since I just showed you why you may not want to break the data into two files, let me give some more support to doing it. Suppose our example was a little more complicated with each part being supplied by two suppliers. The amount of storage space would be almost twice as much if we tried to put it in one file. But if we use two files, each additional supplier will only add 90 bytes to the general requirements. Of course if we had more than 9 suppliers we would need an additional character in the SUPPLIERNUM field so another 2000 bytes would be needed if we have the 2000 items as in the example and each new supplier would add 91 instead of 90 bytes.

It is important to consider the TIME vs STORAGE SPACE tradeoff when designing a database. The decreased storage space may more than make up for the increased retrieval time. This idea may not work in all instances and the application will vary from one system to another. If you are running on a hard disk, or doing your work in a RAM drive, the time factor may be reduced significantly due to the speed increases you can get from those items.

Well, I hope the things in this article will be of use to some of you FOGGERS. This information is part of the procedure known as NORMALIZING a relational database and if there is enough interest I will try to continue in another article. No guarantees though, remember that I only know enough to be dangerous!

BOOK REVIEWS

Learning to Program in C by David Wright

Like many of you, I recently have become interested in the C programming language. I read several articles and skimmed

through a couple of books before deciding to make a concerted effort at learning it. In doing so, I happened upon a book that I think deserves consideration by any of you who are planning to learn C. The book is titled *Learning to Program in C* by Stephan G. Kochan and it's published by Hayden. It sells for about \$19.00.

Before taking you on a quick tour through the book, I want to make a couple of general points. First, the book assumes little prior programming experience and begins with brief introductions to programming, programming languages, and the process of compiling programs from ASCII file source code. Throughout the book Kochan continues to write for readers who are novice programmers, but he does not present a watered down view of C. Nor does he dwell on the inane, so if you have experience programming in compiled languages you will still get a lot from the book without having to skip much. Second, the book is essentially tutorial in nature. Features of the language are clearly described and each chapter has several complete programs that can be typed in and run.



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John Gaudio is an electrical engineer holding two U.S. Patents on computer systems. He's been a consultant to Osborne Computer Corporation and has written several articles for their magazine, The Portable Companion. He continues to write regularly for the newsletters of the First Osborne Group and the Denver Osborne Group, and has spent the last two years helping people to get more from their Osborne Computers. Survivor's Life Line is a trademark of J. Gaudio Company.

After the introduction there is a chapter on introducing basic data types and arithmetic expressions. This is followed by chapters describing the various statements used for looping or repetition, those used for conditional branching, and an introduction to arrays. After completing these chapters, the reader has run many programs and has the basic tools with which to learn C.

Next, Kochan thoroughly covers the use of functions. This, of course, is the essence of structured languages such as C. He pays detailed attention to use of arguments, arrays, and the return of values to the point where the function was called. In C, the way you deal with variables is crucial to proper and efficient functions and, therefore, program operation, so more advanced aspects of the use of variables are covered.

C is rich in its various ways of handling data. The following three chapters cover some of these: structures, character strings, and pointers. The first and last of these are particularly important in C and so these chapters are somewhat detailed. Fortunately, Kochan explains matters clearly. Incidentally, the chapter on pointers has a good introduction to the use of linked lists.

Performing operations on individual bits is covered in the next chapter. Many of the methods discussed are not needed to make good use of C; some aren't even available on many compilers. Despite this, the chapter contains some of the clearest explanations of common bit manipulations and their uses that I have read. The discussion of bit fields, where individual bits within a data word can be used for flags or to contain variables of a limited numerical range, made me wish my version of C supported this powerful feature.

The final chapters include one on the preprocessor, one with even more information on data types, one with tips for working with larger programs, methods of input and output that had not been needed in the previous chapter's programs (e.g. file access), and one on miscellaneous features and advanced topics. There are six appendices: a language summary, a description of common programming mistakes, a description of the UNIX library, a description of the program LINT (used to help uncover bugs in programs), and the usual list of ASCII codes probably included in every computer book we all own (that's okay, I'm too lazy to ever learn them).

The examples in each chapter are simple and straightforward. They are preceded by explanations of the unique aspects of the problem to be solved and are followed by a thorough description of what each statement does. The sample programs are generally useful and some are worth keeping. Each chapter also includes a set of exercises. Unfortunately, as in most books that have exercises, no answers are given.

What makes this book most effective as a learning tool is the way Kochan gradually introduces the important, but confusing, aspects of the language. For example, there are many details about the storage class and scope of variables.

Some of these details may seem odd to people who are used to programming in BASIC where variables don't have to be given too much concern. These topics have been, to me at least, the most confusing aspects of C. If this information were presented all at once, it might drive you back to BASIC forever. Instead, the important aspects are introduced and discussed where they are relevant to the situation. Also the use of arrays is introduced early but they are re-examined periodically within various contexts.

A concern for any book on C is its usefulness to those of us with CP/M since the language has been used extensively in UNIX environments. The book makes no assumption of a particular computer system or operating system, but it does give special attention to the UNIX environment. I found this to be no problem though, because very little in the book depends on UNIX.

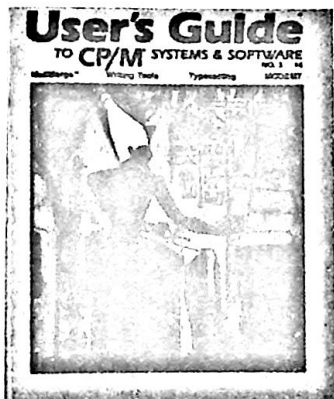
Obviously, if you have a C compiler that is a full implementation of the language, you will get a bit more from the book. I am using Software Toolworks C/80 and it is perfect for learning C. You may find it to be all you'll ever need for programming in C. I should mention, however, that my enthusiasm for C/80 was increased after I recently upgraded from version 2.0 to 3.1 and purchased the MathPak option that allows use of floating point data. The upgrade was \$10.00 and the option was \$29.95. They were well worth it and allowed me to try nearly all the sample programs. In particular, Kochan makes considerable use of the formatted input function 'scanf.' This is included in the new version but if you don't have it, the tasks 'scanf' is used for, can be accomplished with a little recoding. Before upgrading to version 3.1, I used the 'atoi' and 'gets' functions available in the C80LIB that's in the public domain.

The only other hitch I encountered occurred when I tried to pass structures as arguments to functions. Some compilers, including C/80, won't allow that. This only poses a small problem since the task can be accomplished with the use of pointers. Just skip the problem posing sample programs until you finish the following chapter on pointers. Any other differences were so minor that they shouldn't cause any problem assuming you read the documentation for whatever compiler you use. One point to watch is that with many compilers, only the first 6 characters of your variable and function names are unique. There are a couple of programs in the book that will drive that lesson home.

In conclusion, this is an excellent book to use in learning C. If you take the time to read every chapter in sequence, enter and run the sample programs, and do the exercises, I think you will have a good grasp of C and will possess the skills to write nearly any program you will want. I'm currently exploring a couple of more advanced texts and hope to review them in the future.

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Day	Date	City	A.M.O.	Time	Address	Contact No.
1 st Sa	Oct 6	West Point, PA	121-PHROG	9:30am	Merck, Sharp & Dome, Sumneytown Pike	215-648-5862
1 st Su	Oct 7	Syracuse, NY	82-SOUP	1:00pm	Location Varies — Confirm	315-471-1405
1 st M	Oct 1	Oberlin, OH	9-Ob^Os	7:00pm	Rice Faculty Lounge, Oberlin College	216-775-8290
	Oct 1	Milwaukee, WI	22-MilwOG	7:00pm	Engin & Math Science Bldg. Rm E495, Univ. of WI	414-691-4241
	Oct 1	Jackson, MS	58-MCPM	6:00pm	R & D Center, 3825 Ridgewood Rd., 5 th Fl Conf Rm.	601-366-0928
	Oct 1	Menlo Park, CA	68-SMOG ³	7:30pm	Crane Place, 1331 Crane	415-325-2442
	Oct 1	Tacoma, WA	72-TOG	7:00pm	Pierce Co. Library (Basement Mtg Rm) 404 Garfield So.	206-752-5582
	Oct 1	Bloomington, IN	87-IOU	7:30pm	Indiana Univ, Jordan Hall, Room 440	812-339-4754
	Oct 1	Capetown, South Africa	96-COGSA	7:30pm	Meladata Solutions, Strand 55	021-25-6182
	Oct 1	Wiesbaden, Germany	24-AGOG	7:00pm	Air Force Hosp. Bld. 24 Rm. 100	069-69-3218
	Oct 1	Baton Rouge, LA	103-FLOG	7:00pm	B.R. School of Computers, 9255 Interline Ave.	504-292-1880
	Oct 1	Winston-Salem, NC	107-TROGIC	7:30pm	CONFIRM	704-246-5929
	Oct 1	29 Palms, CA	114-HOG	6:00pm	CONFIRM	619-368-6188
1 st Tu	Oct 2	Santa Maria, CA	42-SMOG	7:00pm	Sears Savings Bank, 401 South Broadway	805-937-1128
	Oct 2	Oakwood, OH	79-DOUG	7:30pm	St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Dixon Ave.	513-932-6990
	Oct 2	Tempe, AZ	100-TOG	6:40pm	Tempe Public Library, Southern Ave @ Rural Rd	602-438-2731
each Tu	Oct 2	Superior, WI	118-DSO	7:30pm	915 Lincoln Street	715-394-6629
1 st W	Oct 3	Stockton, CA	11-SOG	7:00pm	Allen's Computerland 4343 Pacific Ave.	209-473-8440
	Oct 3	Sacramento, CA	61-SOG	7:00pm	SMUD Training Bldg, 1708 59 th St	916-422-3260
	Oct 3	Enid, OK	77-FOG/E	5:30pm	706 W. Maine	405-233-9103
	Oct 3	Rockford, IL	84-GROG	7:00pm	Rock Valley College, Student Center Rm 134	815-398-1280
each W	Oct 3	Elmonte, CA	113-	5:00pm	Chadwick-Helmuth 4601 N. Arden Drive	818-575-6161
1 st Th	Oct 4	Santa Clara, CA	1-1 st FOG SV	7:30pm	5201 Patrick Henry Drive (loading dock entrance)	415-371-8699
	Oct 4	Denver, CO	4-DOG	8:00pm	Masonic Temple, 3550 Federal Blvd.	303-759-0359
	Oct 4	Dhahran, Saudi Arabia	33-DPOG	10:00am	ARAMCO Mgmt Training Center	874-4798
	Oct 4	W. Lafayette, IN	34-HOG	7:00pm	CONFIRM	317-743-5275
	Oct 4	Auckland, New Zealand	53-NZOG	7:30pm	20 Kingsley Avenue	659-738
	Oct 4	Santa Rosa, CA	56-No. Bay FOG	7:00pm	Valley Oak Park Rec Hall, 2600 Northcoast	707-546-0145
	Oct 4	Sitka, AK	83-BUG	7:30pm	Human Services Center, Moller Dr.	907-747-5372
	Oct 4	Westmount, PQ	73-Microcozm	6:45pm	Hillside Armoury, 3 Hillside Lane	514-849-7761
	Oct 4	Wellington, New Zealand	109-CROG	7:30PM	Compusales, 75-77 Ghuznee St.	0064-4-791-172
	Oct 4	Nashville, TN	119-MidTOG	6:30pm	1228 16th Avenue So.	615-3271715
alter Th	Oct 4	Maitland, FL	20-CFIOG	7:00pm	Lake Faith Villas, Maitland Blvd	305-298-8576
each Th	Oct 4	Orlando, FL	16-GOUG	7:00pm	Room 203 Orlando College, Lee Road	305-847-7031
2 nd Su	Oct 14	Miami, FL	26-GCOUG	1:00pm	F.I.U Tamiami Campus, Building DM, Room 100	305-251-7666
	Oct 14	Amarillo, TX	28-POG	2:30pm	Downtown Branch Amarillo Public Library	806-355-7509
	Oct 14	Ketchikan, AK	89-KCPM	4:00pm	320 Bawden Suite 101	907-225-6476
2 nd M	Oct 8	Ft. Smith, AR	23-AFOG	7:00pm	(1 st & 2 nd month) 104 B.A. Annex	501-575-2980
	Oct 8	Fresno, CA	35-FROG	7:00pm	Village Computer Systems, 3081 W. Bullard	209-683-2252
	Oct 8	Evansville, IN	46-E-OSBUG	6:30pm	Oaklyn Branch Evansville Library, Oakhills & Lynch	812-479-5108
	Oct 8	Edmonton, Alb	45-KOG	7:30pm	Alberta Vocational College, 10215 - 108 Street	403-459-0416

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Day	Date	City	A.M.O.	Time	Address	Contact No.
2 nd M	Oct 8	Charlotte, NC	71-LOGIC	7:30pm	CONFIRM	704-377-1154
	Oct 8	Calgary, Alta	94-COUG	7:30pm	931 - 32 nd Ave NE	403-297-6281
	Oct 8	Paris, France	110-OUF	6:30pm	Centre Malraux, 78 Bd Raspail	1-544-6216
2 nd Tu	Oct 9	Memphis, TN	15-MOG	7:00pm	34th Fl., Clark Bldg., Federal Express Conf. Rm	901-767-2350
	Oct 9	Ames, IA	12-Midwest FOG	7:00pm	IA State (old engineering annex) W. Lincoln Way	515-266-8764
	Oct 9	Mill Valley, CA	31-MOG	7:00pm	West America Bank, Strawberry Village	415-892-2713
	Oct 9	Lincoln, NE	39-Lincoln LOG	7:30pm	Smith Curtis Bldg., NE Wesleyan Univ., 52 nd & St. Paul	402-472-1392
	Oct 9	Omaha, NE	44-OACP/MUG	7:00pm	CONFIRM	402-348-0440
	Oct 9	London, Ont	95-LOG	7:30pm	Elborn College, Room 2116	519-434-4842
	Oct 9	Superior, WI	118-DSO	7:30pm	915 Lincoln Street	715-394-6629
2 nd W	Oct 10	Oakland, CA	3-East Bay FOG	6:00pm	B & B Electric, 2832 Ford Street	415-834-7897
	Oct 10	Vancouver, BC	17-VPCC	7:30pm	Hastings Community Center, 3096 East Hastings	604-298-6990
	Oct 10	Danbury, CT	40-DOG	7:00pm	Preferred Utilities Mfg, 11 South St	203-792-7959
	Oct 10	Clayton, MO	55-SLOG	7:00pm	Mid County Library, Central & MD	314-862-6239
	Oct 10	Oklahoma City, OK	67-OKLOG	7:00pm	3400 N.W. Grand Blvd	405-843-5925
	Oct 10	Cleveland, OH	75-COG	7:00pm	Trinity Cathedral House, East 22 nd & Euclid Ave.	216-871-2532
	Oct 10	Athens, GA	81-COG	7:30pm	Athens Federal Savings, Barnett Shoals Road	404-353-2127
	Oct 10	W. Hempstead, NY	88-LION	7:30pm	Adelphi Univ Cont Ed Ctr, Eagle Ave	212-327-2321
	Oct 10	Johannesburg, So Africa	90-JOG	7:30pm	Bank of Lisbon Bldg. 19th Floor	011-51-6304
	Oct 10	Jacksonville, FL	98-JOUG	7:00pm	JEA Bldg, 233 W. Duval Street	904-771-3427
	Oct 10	Ithaca, NY	101-FLOG	7:30pm	Cornell Univ, 694 Uris Hall	607-257-2030
	Oct 10	El Monte, CA	113-	5:00pm	Chadwick-Helmuth 4601 N. Arden Drive	818-575-6161
	Oct 10	Davis, CA	6-DOG	7:30pm	PG&E Warehouse Classroom L Street	916-756-2967
2 nd Th	Oct 11	Sioux City, IA	38-SOG	7:30pm	Western Iowa Tech., Room 508	712-252-2182
	Oct 11	Modesto, CA	48-Tule FOG		CONFIRM	209-578-4909
	Oct 11	Medford, OR	54-RVOG	7:30pm	33 No. Central #306	503-482-8646
	Oct 11	Ft. Lauderdale, FL	91-FLOG	7:00pm	Harris Comp Sys, 2101 W. Cypress Creek	305-748-7237
	Oct 11	St. Paul, MN	111-TCOG	7:00pm	Univ. of MN, St. Paul Campus Rm B-45 Classrm Off Bldg	612-871-6076
each Th	Oct 11	Orlando, FL	16-GOUG	7:00pm	Room 203 Orlando College, Lee Road	305-847-7031
2 nd F	Oct 12	Salinas, CA	5-MBAOCUG	7:00pm	Castroville Fire Station, Speegle & Pomber	408-449-4021
	Oct 12	Chatsworth, CA	86-ONUG	7:00pm	Wizard of OsZ, 9614 C Cozycroft Ave	818-709-6202
	Oct 12	Lexington, MA	122-BOG	7:30pm	Honeywell Electro Optical Div, Route 2A	617-469-2414
2 nd Sa	Oct 13	Bangkok, Thailand	36-CP/M BUG	1:00pm	Action Computers 5/26 Saladaeng Road, Silom	391-0963 x86
	Oct 13	Louisville, KY	64-PCC	1:00pm	Univ. of Louisville, Shelby Campus, Rm 202 Burhans Hall	502-423-0451
	Oct 13	River Grove, IL	80-CFOG	1:00pm	Liberal Arts Bldg, Triton College	312-654-0986
	Oct 13	Houston, TX	108-CLOG	9:00am	Gilruth Rec. Center, Johnson Space Center	713-554-4304
	Oct 13	Houston, TX	108-CLOG	9:00am	Gilruth Rec. Center, Johnson Space Center	713-554-4304
3 rd M	Oct 15	Raleigh, NC	8-ROCC	7:30pm	CONFIRM — Dreyfus Aud., Research Triangle Inst.	919-782-9576
	Oct 15	Wenatchee, WA	10-WOG	7:00pm	Computer Systems Marketing, 1030 North Wenatchee	509-884-3279
	Oct 15	Detroit, MI	14-DeFOG	7:30pm	Ford Tech Center Cafeteria, 1700 Rotunda Dr, Dearborn	313-422-0928
	Oct 15	Anchorage, AK	63-GLOB	8:30pm	Anchorage Comm. College, 2 nd Floor — Bldg K	907-277-0950
	Oct 15	Menlo Park, CA	68-SMOG ³	7:30pm	Crane Place, 1331 Crane	415-326-2543
	Oct 15	Marietta, GA	93-GROG	7:00pm	Georgia Tech, Cobb County Research Fac.	404-422-6416
3 rd Tu	Oct 16	Cincinnati, OH	27-COG	7:00pm	Central Trust Center 6th floor, 5th & Main Streets	513-232-4076
	Oct 16	San Luis Obispo, CA	47-CCOG	7:00pm	TRW, 1050 Southwood Drive	805-466-8311
each Tu	Oct 16	Superior, WI	118-DSO	7:30pm	915 Lincoln Street	715-394-6629
3 rd W	Oct 17	Austin, TX	7-AEIOU	6:30pm	Old Quarry Library off Far West Blvd.	512-837-7539
	Oct 17	Oak Ridge, TN	13-SMOG	7:30pm	ECS 136 Fairbanks (OR 11505 Kingston Pike, Knoxville)	615-482-7919
	Oct 17	Las Vegas, NV	25-VOG	6:00pm	Las Vegas Library, 1726 East Charleston	702-452-2544
	Oct 17	Humboldt, CA	29-HOG	7:00pm	Room 126 Science Bldg., Humboldt State	707-445-2074
	Oct 17	Dunbar, WV	59-Valley FOG	6:30pm	Dunbar Public Library	304-727-6436
	Oct 17	Walnut Creek, CA	60-Mt. DOG	7:00pm	SF Federal, 1660 Olympic Blvd, Diablo Rm	415-933-2665
	Oct 17	Kaiserslautern, W. Ger.	62-FROG	7:00pm	Vogelweh Recreation	49-6371-52364
	Oct 17	Kaiserslautern, W. Ger.	62-FROG	7:00pm	Vogelweh Recreation	49-6371-52364

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Day	Date	City	A.M.O.	Time	Address	Contact No.
3 rd W	Oct 17	Midway, WA	99-SKOG	7:30pm	Highline Comm. Coll, Gold Rm — Bldg 4	206-941-2192
	Oct 17	Tarrytown, NY	104-	7:00pm	Tarrytown Public Library, N. Broadway	914-747-2110
	Oct 17	Ft. Collins, CO	115-FTCOG	7:30pm	C.S.U., Gibbons Hall Rm. 201	303-226-4561
each W	Oct 17	El Monte, CA	113-	5:00pm	Chadwick-Helmuth 4601 N. Arden Drive	818-575-6161
3 rd Th	Oct 18	Santa Clara, CA	1-1 st FOG SV	7:30pm	5201 Patrick Henry Drive (loading dock entrance)	415-371-8699
	Oct 18	Provo, UT	30-KAOS	8:00pm	Wiltec Research Co. 488 South 500 West	801-225-8293
	Oct 18	College Station, TX	43-AGGNOG	5:30pm	A & A Building, Texas A & M Univ.	409-845-5814
	Oct 18	Ann Arbor, MI	37-TOGA ²	7:00pm	Neuro Science Bldg. Univ. of MI, 1103 East Huron St	313-662-9026
	Oct 18	Tulsa, OK	51-OUT	7:00pm	Micro Systems, 2010 South 68th East Ave	918-584-5610
	Oct 18	Richmond, VA	52-CVOG	7:00pm	Red Cross Bldg, 4 th and Main	804-270-9404
	Oct 18	St. Croix, VI	70-StCOUG	7:30pm	College of the Virgin Islands	809-773-7551
	Oct 18	Garden City, NY	88-LION	7:30pm	Control Data Ed Ctr, 1325 Franklin Ave	212-327-2321
	Oct 18	Lemoyne, PA	92-MIDPOG	7:30pm	One Stop Computer, 65 N. 5 th St	717-732-2937
	Oct 18	Salt Lake City, UT	105-SMOG	6:00pm	Master Mind Computers, 448 S. 400 E	801-268-2831
alter Th	Oct 18	Maitland, FL	20-CFIOG	7:00pm	Lake Faith Villas, Maitland Blvd	305-298-8576
each Th	Oct 18	Orlando, FL	16-GOOUG	7:00pm	Room 203 Orlando College, Lee Road	305-847-7031
3 rd F	Oct 19	Houston, TX	76-OUCH	7:30pm	Univ. Houston, 101 Farish Hall, KIVA Rm. (Use lot 13A off Cullen)	713-688-8149
	Oct 19	Woodland Hills, CA	106-TUG-NET	7:00pm	CONFIRM	818-994-6567
3 rd Sa	Oct 20	Kenai, AK	18-PenFOG	10:00am	Room V111, Kenai Peninsula Comm. College	907-262-5801
	Oct 20	Norfolk, VA	78-TOG	9:00am	Armed Forces Staff College, Hampton Blvd	804-495-1596
	Oct 20	Lexington, KY	32-KOG	12:00n	Room 128, Erickson Hall, University of Kentucky	606-623-1884
4 th Su	Oct 28	Amarillo, TX	28-POG	2:30pm	CONFIRM	806-355-7509
	Oct 28	Pittsburgh, PA	50-TROG	2:30pm	Mellon Science Building, Duquesne Univ.	412-456-3946
4 th M	Oct 22	Mill Valley, CA	31-MOG	6:30pm	CONFIRM	415-892-2713
	Oct 22	Davenport, IA	102-QCOG	7:00pm	CONFIRM	319-386-3484
4 th Tu	Oct 23	Wichita, KS	21-OPEK	7:30pm	St. Paul's Methodist Church, 13th & Broadway	316-945-8389
	Oct 23	Greenville, SC	41-POGO	6:30pm	C. Douglas Wilson, 201 E. North Street	803-233-3434
	Oct 23	St. Louis, MO	55-SLOG	7:00pm	Thornhill Library, 12863 Willowick	314-862-6239
each Tu	Oct 23	Supior, WI	118-DSO	7:30pm	915 Lincoln Street	715-394-6629
4 th W	Oct 24	Danbury, CT	40-DOG	7:00pm	Preferred Utilities Mfg, 11 South St	203-792-7959
	Oct 24	Portland, OR	57-PMS	7:00pm	Bonneville Power Admin. Aud.	503-642-9692
	Oct 24	Athens, GA	81-COG	7:30pm	Athens Federal Savings, Barnett Shoals Road	404-353-2127
each W	Oct 24	El Monte, CA	113-	5:00pm	Chadwick-Helmuth 4601 N. Arden Drive	818-575-6161
4 th Th	Oct 25	San Francisco, CA	2-SF FOG	7:00pm	St. Aidan's Church, Goldmine & Diamond Hgts.	415-334-285
	Oct 25	Lancaster, PA	74-LOG	7:30pm	Fire Protection Sys, 1873 Lincoln Hwy East	717-898-8929
each Th	Oct 25	Orlando, FL	16-GOOUG	7:00pm	Room 203 Orlando College, Lee Road	305-847-7031
last Th	Oct 25	Fargo, ND	117-O/KUG	7:00pm	CONFIRM	701-232-5722
last Su	Oct 28	River Grove, IL	80-CFOG	1:00pm	Liberal Arts Bldg, Triton College	312-654-0986
last M	Oct 29	Hong Kong	116-HONG KOG	6:30pm	May House, Private Function Rm. 201	852-5-8171714
	Oct 29	Toronto, Ont	120-OS-TOC	7:00pm	Parkdale Public Library, 1303 Queen St. W.	416-977-9925
each Tu	Oct 30	Supior, WI	118-DSO	7:30pm	915 Lincoln Street	715-394-6629
last Tu	Oct 30	Santa Barbara, CA	69-OSBUG	7:30pm	S8 Planning Rm, 105 E. Anapamu St	805-687-8541
	Oct 30	Kansas City, MO	97-MIZOG	7:00pm	TWA Bldg, 13 th & Baltimore	816-455-2824
	Oct 30	Burlington, MA	122-BOG	7:30pm	Mitre Corp., Route 62	617-469-2414
each W	Oct 31	El Monte, CA	113-	5:00pm	Chadwick-Helmuth 4601 N. Arden Drive	818-575-6161
last W	Oct 31	Richland, WA	19-TROG	7:00pm	1776 Fowler	509-375-3258
????		Schweinfurt, W. Ger.	112-SWOG		CONFIRM	09721-68064
????		, CA	65-ENROBSO		By arrangement only — CONFIRM	408-458-9047
????		Sierra Madre, CA	66-SMOG		By arrangement only — CONFIRM	818-355-8825
????		Jakarta, Indonesia	85-JOG		By arrangement only — CONFIRM	021-333-880

HARDWARE REVIEWS

MAC INKER, A Printer Ribbon Re-inker

by Jim Switz

As you might imagine, my library work for FOG entails a bit of printing; program listing, documentation files, letters etc. This naturally results in a lot of printer ribbon usage, not to mention paper. After going through 5 or 6 ribbons for my Mannesmann Tally MT160L printer (at about \$14 each!), I decided it was time to investigate methods to extend the life of my ribbons. I've used the WD-40 trick, which was written up in the March 84 *FOGHORN*, with some success, but this only rejuvenates the remaining ribbon ink, which means that the ribbon still runs out of ink eventually. Having seen advertisements for several re-inking products, I decided to investigate the Mac Inker, available from Computer Friends, 6415 SW Canyon Court, Suite 10, Portland Oregon 97225. I called before to make sure there was a model available for my printer, and discovered that well over 100 printer models were covered, including mine. Prices range from \$54.95 to \$89.95, depending on your printer. My MT160 version costs \$61.95; not an inexpensive price, but worth it as you'll read below.

My Mac Inker arrived within 10 days UPS, and I started investigating it immediately. Though simple in design, the Mac Inker is well built; much sturdier than some re-inkers I'd seen at computer shows. Essentially it has a platform which supports a motor, two felt roller spools, a guide roller and a guide pin. The motor has a specially cut sprocket which fits into the ribbon drive socket, and which drives the ribbon in the same fashion as the printer itself, at a slower speed. The ribbon cartridge is set on the platform with the motor sprocket engaged, and the ribbon then loops around the guide roller, and between the two felt rollers before being pulled back into the cartridge. The felt rollers have a hollow plastic center spool with small inkwells inside, and do the actual ink application. Some experience will be needed to apply just the right amount of ink, as described below.

The first task is to determine how long it takes the Mac Inker to pull the ribbon through the cartridge, as the unit will run constantly and there is no way to determine when the entire ribbon has passed through. After attaching the cartridge to the Mac Inker, turn it on and look for the splice point of the ribbon, or mark the ribbon with white-out or any light-colored marker. Measuring the amount of time for the mark to pass through once will allow you to re-ink ribbons thereafter without having to stand watch on the process. More than one pass through the Mac Inker will result in too much ink being applied, with subsequent splotchy printing. Each ribbon design is different; my MT160 ribbons took 25 minutes to complete a

pass. I noticed several of my ribbons slipping; and therefore not moving through the Mac Inker; this is the fault of the ribbon, not the re-inker, as the motor has plenty of torque. After opening these ribbons, I discovered a small spring clip was not providing enough pressure against the ribbon and rubber roller inside; stretching the spring to provide more pressure alleviated this problem immediately, although I had to modify several of my ribbons.

Once the time to ink a ribbon has been established, the only tricky bit is to determine how much ink to use. Computer Friends recommends that ink be placed in just one felt roller reservoir at first, and see how that works; they also caution against adding more ink just because the ink pattern on the ribbon looks splotchy, since allowing the ribbon to sit for several hours will allow the ink to spread out nicely. I took the advice and put ink in only the first roller the ribbon contacts; this resulted in about the right amount being applied to the ribbon. The second felt roller serves to soak up the excess ink, and even out the ink pattern somewhat. Sure enough, using a minimal amount of ink in the reservoir was sufficient, and even a bit too much in a couple of instances where a few pages of printing was necessary to use up the excess ink. Allowing the ribbon to sit for awhile after re-inking is essential; the ink migrates over the ribbon evenly if left to its own devices for awhile, so plan ahead if your printer ribbon is starting to lighten up. Overnight works fine; longer time periods don't seem to make much difference.

A word of caution; re-inking a ribbon is not a muss-free operation. You are almost guaranteed to get ink on your fingers while installing/removing the ribbon from the Mac Inker or any re-inker; this is the nature of the beast. Using disposable gloves might be a solution, but any good mechanics soap will take the ink right off, as will WD-40, strangely enough. The MT160 ribbon has a small plastic ribbon guide which has to be removed from the ribbon before re-inking; this is not difficult, but will result in inky fingers.

I found the performance of the Mac Inker to be almost flawless once I got used to how much ink to use and how to adjust the internal ribbon roller tension; the re-inked ribbons work just fine, and have caused absolutely no printer problems after using about 10-12 re-inked ribbons so far. A couple of my ribbons have been re-inked 4 times with no evidence of deterioration, although I would not expect infinite life (the ribbon material has to wear out eventually). I would estimate that the 3 oz. bottle of ink which is included with the Mac Inker will re-ink about 15 ribbons; this will vary with the particular ribbon type, of course. The 3 oz. bottle can be reordered for \$3.00, so a re-inking costs about 20 cents, much less than buying a new ribbon for \$14.00. Ink is also available in pints and gallons, and in several colors. When I talked to Computer Friends, they stressed that the ink used is specially designed for printers, and has a lubricant to keep the dot-matrix pins from clogging. I was cautioned against using standard inks, which do not have the lubricant, and can damage printheads. From other sources, I've confirmed that printer inks are indeed designed with lubrication in mind, so I plan to stick to the special stuff.



The only problem I've had with the Mac Inker is a small amount of ink leakage from the felt rollers onto the plastic base; not enough to cause any problems, but I've been wiping it up anyway.

In summary, the Mac Inker is a well-designed product which performs as claimed, and although somewhat expensive, will pay for itself with the first case of ribbons saved.

The Double Density Upgrade from Nuevo Electronics

by Wally Matthews

If you own an Osborne 1 and want to install a double density upgrade yourself, you can't go wrong with the Nuevo Electronics package that sells for \$150.00. It comes with:

1. An easy to follow instruction manual
2. A new monitor PROM: version 4.5/DD
3. An Installation Disk with DISK.COM to check disk drive speed (200 ms)
4. A circuit board that piggybacks on the main Osborne board
5. A ribbon cable used during installation
6. Both Phillips and blade screwdrivers needed to install the modification.

The installation took one hour and that included checking the disk drive speeds, cleaning the case, and reassembly. The most time-consuming job was formatting and SYSGENing and PIPing my disks and programs and replacing COPY.COM, SYSGEN.COM, SETUP.COM, and MOVE-CPM.COM files on my system and utility disks. Once this is completed, you have 183 K on each disk. And, in addition, you can now read and write not only Osborne SD and DD but also many other CPM-80 disk formats, including CPM-86 formatted CPM-80 systems used on many IBM-PC compatibles.

Once you've completed the upgrade, you should check ALL your disks and get rid of disks that can't be formatted in double density. Don't keep bad disks around when you know what will happen when you try to load them up or worse — when you're halfway through a long document and get that dreaded "BDOS ERROR on B, Bad Sector" message while in WordStar.

Now, you have properly aligned and speed adjusted drives, good disks, and DOUBLE DENSITY. That's all there is to it.

Nuevo Electronics also offers Osborne-to-standard disk drive cable connectors (\$15) and replacement drives, including double sided, double density. Contact them at P.O. Box 209, Richmond, Texas 77469 or phone (713) 499-4531.

Welcome to the world of double density!

I've used this modification now for over a month. There have been no problems. All my public domain utilities work fine: DU.COM, NSWEEP ver. 1.99 (including the Q option unsqueeze function), XDIR.COM (the D.COM 3-column one) renamed X.COM and replacing AUTOST.COM on ALL my disks, etc. WordStar, both with and without CIS & C's HexPrintR modifications, works great and so does SuperCalc. I couldn't be more pleased!!

OSCOOL FAN

by David M. Jung

I believe the first inkling I had that the Osborne was a "heat" machine was when after a heavy session of dBASE II sorting, I noticed a curious 'rippling' of the air at the back vent. This optical effect looked exactly like the one you can see on asphalt roads at high noon in the middle of the summer. Thinking I might be smitten with glow in the dark CRT eyes, I placed my hand over the vent and ascertained that there was indeed hot air available. Sherlock Holmes I'm not, but after these clues I came to the astute conclusion that I needed a fan (or a walk-in freezer).

So, being the quick-acting person that I am (just ask my wife), I ordered the Oscool Fan as advertised in the Spring 1984 issues of the *FOGHORN*. (The fact that I placed the order almost two years after noticing the heat waves is irrelevant). The advertisement expounds upon the virtues of the Oscool Fan—including, but not limited to, thinness, compactness, efficiency, and instant installment. (Wow, that marketing class wasn't wasted time after all!).

Actually, this was the first (and only) ad I have seen that showed the item in question. All other advertisers should take notes (Hint, Hint). The price was a mere \$79.95 (cringe) plus the proverbial three bucks for shipping. So all you readers can stay up with me, that's a whopping eighty-two ninety-five. Well, easy come, easy go (or is it a fool and his money...). So, off went my check and I sat back and waited. And waited. And waited.

A month later, my bank statement came. I don't know, am I the only person in the world whose checks don't get cashed?? Look folks, time is money. If you get one of my checks, I expect you to cash it—that's why I sent it.

Well, after fretting for a few days, I took the big plunge and called R & D. With minimal confusion, I was informed that due to a backlog in orders for the Oscool Fan, my fan would not be shipped for another two weeks. My check would be held until then. O.K., that's acceptable, although it would be just as acceptable for the check to be cashed and a post card sent explaining the delay. The name of the game is cash flow, my friends (remember Osborne?).

Two weeks later, UPS delivered the fan. Unfortunately, my cute wife decided that she wouldn't give it to me until the lawn was mowed (real cute, honey), but I plead that since I'm right in the middle of HUGE paper due in Strategic Management and the Osborne sure does feel hot (put your hand here, darling), I need that little bugger of a fan NOW. Finally, she relented and gave me the fan (I think the tears helped).

To make a long story short, the fan does indeed slide into the vent vacated by the removed vent cover (I didn't even know you could remove it). It does indeed provide a lighted switch for easy turn-ons (no pun intended — my wife is already suspicious of my relationship with this computer). Most importantly, it does indeed keep things cool. The top of the case behind drive A: used to get hot during extended use, now it only gets a little warm right next to the fan.

The only other person I know of who ordered an Oscool Fan also encountered delays in delivery. He mentioned that they said they lost or misplaced his order, but he did get it, once they had everything figured out.

So the bottom line is the fan works as advertised and the company does seem to be reputable (albeit somewhat disorganized). This fan looks nice, blends in with the overall Osborne design, and runs quietly. However, I'm used to big computers and the racket their fans make, so you might take the last comment with a grain of salt. Actually, I find the hum comforting--probably because the absence of sound with the bigger machines indicates a problem. As to whether its worth 80 some odd bucks, I don't know. I haven't seen any other fans--not even in pictures.

* * * * *

Accessories Make the Osborne-1 a Useful Business Computer -- PRINTER OPTIMIZER

by Frank D. Bullock

A few weeks ago, the inimitable Dr. Sam Tove, a fellow ROCC [Raleigh Osborne Computer Club, Raleigh, NC USA] member, fondly called me another "begat(er)", referring to GENESIS CHAPTER 5. That expression caused me to inventory the hardware I have acquired to make the O-1 meet my business requirement, which "begat" the idea to write this review.

I maintain mailing lists which vary from 3,000 to 20,000 names/addresses. A hard disk subsystem was the only conceivable way to operate the business. I chose the Trantor 33MB hard disk subsystem which I will review in another article. My IEEE 488 (parallel) port for printing was lost because the Trantor interfaces.

I thank all the local computer dealers and other suppliers for not having an EPSON MX 100 serial interface cable in stock. I am sure I would have purchased the interface cable had one been in stock. However, the price quoted and the time delay for a special order was incentive to look for a toy with greater visibility and utilitarian value, bells and whistles. I chose the PRINTER OPTIMIZER, manufactured by Applied Creative Technology, Inc., 2156 West Northwest Hwy., Suite C-303, Dallas, Texas 75220, (800) 433-5373.

The Printer Optimizer is a printer buffer (spooler) and a lot more. It is a computer (Z80 microprocessor) in a box which measures 10 1/4" W by 3 1/4" H by 7" D. The front panel houses a 16-button keypad and a 3 character light-emitting diode (LED) display. The system can be programmed manually by the keypad but automatic programming is my preference. The LED displays each entry when the keypad is used for programming. The other controls on the front panel are a light which indicates the unit is on and a pause button, used to instantly halt printing except for data already in the printers' buffer or to manually program a pause in material stored for batch printing. The back panel houses the on/off switch, the reset button and the input/output (I/O) ports.

The standard unit includes parallel (Centronics) I/O ports and 64K of memory. I needed a serial port so I added the Opticom accessory. Therefore, I have a parallel and a serial input port and a parallel and a serial output port. The beauty of this arrangement is that I can input through the serial port at baud rates from 110 to 9600 and dump to the printer either parallel or through the serial port at baud rates from 110 to 9600. Two computers and two printers . . . ? Yes, but not simultaneously. Yes, I dump from the O-1 at 9600 bauds using the OSBAUD Baud Rate Generator.

The instruction manual is a hard cover, three-ring, loose-leaf binder containing 8 1/2 by 11 pages. The pages are 20 weight or better paper. The documentation is well written, easy to understand and gives "hands-on" instructions from page one. Reading is enjoyable and humor is sprinkled throughout. Realistically based examples are used in narrative.

The inner workings have been divided into six compartments. They are Operations, Floor 100, Floor 200, Floor 300, Floor 400 and Floor 500.

The Operations area receive all data transmitted from the computer(s). It distributes the data to the printer or to one of a maximum of three printers. Data can be modified, added to or deleted in this area. And, printing can be temporarily halted to allow paper changing or redirecting the data flow. As data enters or leaves the Optimizer the LED display shows in decimal number (whole thousands) the remaining storage space. The minimum storage space is 65,536 bytes. Memory can be expanded in 65,536 byte increments to a maximum of 262,144 bytes. I expanded my Optimizer to the maximum memory (262K) after printing my first job which amounted to 13,000 labels. Printer selection and printer pause can be initiated manually or automatically (remote programming). In addition to partitioning the main memory into a maximum of four storage areas which can be loaded and emptied independently, many other functions are performed by the Operations area.

Floor 100 is for remote control programming. Up to 99 "SLOTS" may be programmed and up to 255 characters may be stored in a slot. A programming example for the Epson printer is "Press 1 0 0 EXE" on the keypad to get into FLOOR 100 programming mode. The manual input for programming slot 1 for normal print is "1 = 24 ENT 27 ENT 70 ENT 27 ENT 72 ENT ST0". To automatically program slot 1, WordStar N mode creates a non-document file (letter) to be transmitted to the Optimizer. Example:

(F100)
(1=24,27,70,27,72).

Floor 200 is for conversion (translation) programming. This area allow EQUATIONS to be written which take advantage of the printers full capabilities, especially Dot Matrix printers, when used with WordStar, etc. An equation is written which uses an uncommon expression on the left side which equal a Floor 100 slot or an Operations function on the right side of the equal sign. Examples are: ">DAISY<" = P1, "[MATRIX[" = P2, "MYNAME" = S99 or "97" = 65. The respective conversions are : print on letter quality printer (printer number



1), print on number 2 printer (dot matrix), print my name and address from slot 99 each time the expression "MYNAME" is encountered and convert ALL lower case a's into upper case A's.

Floor 300 is the area to send all automatic programming. Remember to write the letter in a non-document mode.

Floor 400 will give a hardcopy listing of all the Floor 100 and Floor 200 contents.

Floor 500 allows reprinting and recovery of up to 99 copies while one has full use of the computer.

The Optimizer can be used with a modem if one has the Opticom, which I have or the Opticom+ option. The Opticom+ provides one parallel and one serial input ports and one parallel and two serial output ports. If the Optimizer is used as a modem port it "buffers" data (puts it in memory) in one direction only.

Interfacing to serial ports is economical and easy. An EZ Configure board for each input/output serial port is installed. They provide a means for directing signals using plug-in jumper wires. This allows a "standard" off-the-shelf cable to be used or configured as the equipment requires.

The Printer Optimizer meets and exceeds the manufacturer's claim. Installation is easy and straight-forward. It's potential is limited only by one's imagination. To say I am satisfied with this purchase is an understatement.

[For another review, see PRINTER OPTIMIZER by Tom Graves, in the Sept. '84 FOGHORN. David]

Frank is a member of FOG and the Raleigh Osborne Computer Club (ROCC), an Affiliated Member Organization. ROCC meetings are listed in the CALENDAR section.

• • • • •

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SOFTWARE REVIEWS

MEDIA MASTER — A REVIEW

by Author Unknown

I first heard about Media Master at this year's West Coast Computer Faire (which, by the way, I thought was terrible in comparison to the past few years). I did not buy the program at the Faire as I purposely did not bring my checkbook with me (to avoid the temptation to overspend).

After returning home and reading through the information for Media Master, I decided to buy it. This program is the best thing since hot honey butter on toast! Where I currently work, I have need to transfer files between Zenith Z-100's and Z-89's and my Osborne I and Executive. I have been doing this with a null modem cable and variations of MODEM7 for over two years, but even at 1200 baud, it's a pain in the you-know-what!

The program arrived about three weeks after I mailed my check. I think that is very good service. I immediately tried to put it to work, but just as quickly ran into a particular bug that affected the job I wanted the program to do. Namely, I wanted to be able to FORMAT Z-100 disks on my Executive and insert them into the Z-100 at work and have them run perfectly. The program would not do it!

I immediately called DG/Systems (the distributors of the program) and left a message on their answering machine. I received a call back the next day. I did not get the gentlemen's last name, but Dave was helpful. He stated that they were aware that there was a "bug" in the program in so far as the Zenith Z-100 formatting was concerned and that they had a fix for it. He took my name and address and assured me that the updated version would be in the mail to me immediately. I received the new disk about eight days later and everything worked perfectly. This is the kind of software support that I would like to see some much larger companies try to match!

But enough of my ramblings about the great service and support. This is supposed to be a review of the program. MEDIA MASTER is easy to use. Simply place the disk containing MEDIA MASTER into the "A" drive and type MM. Once the main menu appears on the screen, you may remove the MEDIA MASTER disk as the program now resides in the computer memory.

The menu displayed on the screen gives you eight different options as follows:

1. COPY file(s)
2. PRINT directory
3. DISPLAY directory
4. LOG in a new diskette
5. ERASE file(s)
6. VERIFY on write toggle (VERIFY is ON)

7. FORMAT a diskette
8. EXIT to CP/M

If you are going to work with a disk you have obtained from a different machine, the first thing you must do is use Option 4 and LOG in the "foreign" disk format to the appropriate drive. If you want to write a data file to a disk to give to someone with another machine, you would use Option 7 and FORMAT the disk before using Option 1 to COPY file(s).

The following is a list of the single-sided formats that Media Master supports (double-sided disks are not supported for obvious reasons):

- | | |
|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1. Osborne (DD) | 14. NEC PC-8001A |
| 2. Osborne (SD) | 15. Actrix |
| 3. DEC VT180 | 16. Cromenco w/Int'l Term |
| 4. IBM PC CP/M | 17. Cromenco CDOS (SD) |
| 5. IBM PC-DOS 1.0 | 18. Cromenco CDOS (DD) |
| 6. IBM PC-DOS 2.0 | 19. Lobo Max-80 |
| 7. TI Professional CP/M | 20. Morrow MD2 |
| 8. TRS-80 I w/Omikron | 21. Kaypro II |
| 9. TRS-80 III w/Mem Merch | 22. Zenith Z90 |
| 10. TRS-80 IV CP/M+ | 23. Heath Z100 CP/M |
| 11. LNW-80 | 24. Heath w/Magnolia |
| 12. Xerox 820 I (SD) | 25. Systel II CP/M |
| 13. Xerox 820 II (DD) | |

As you can see, that is an impressive list of formats. As you read this, DG/Systems has probably added even more formats to the program. As the literature explains, if you come with a disk format the program does not support, they are willing to work with you to add that format to the "support list".

The documentation included with the program is clear and concise. It gives you an introduction, an overview of the operation of the program, detailed instructions for each of the commands, a description of the disk error messages you may encounter, and some tips to help make your use of the program more successful.

Lastly, at \$29.95 this program is a STEAL. It gives the Osborne owner the opportunity to move data files back and forth between many different computers at will. I have tried it with Zenith Z-90's and Z-100's, and with IBM PC's running both PC-DOS 1.0 and PC-DOS 2.0. I have encountered no problems so far, other than the one described at the beginning of this article. I highly recommend this program to every Osborne owner.

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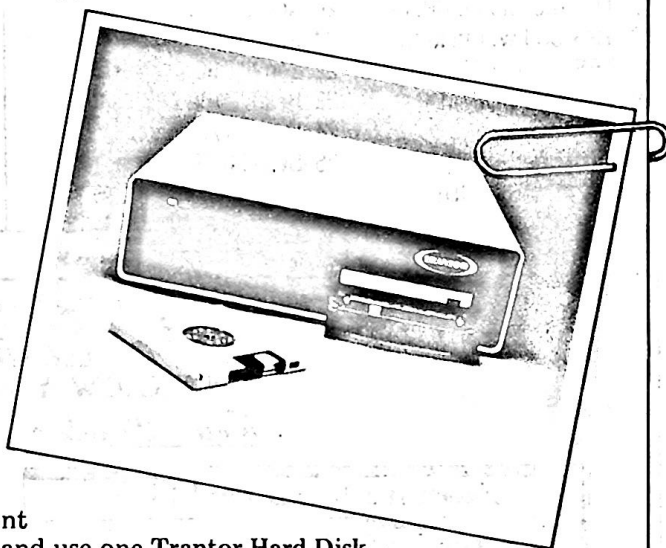
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A Comment on VEDIT

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There is nothing that discourages the use of a program more than the suspicion that it might turn on the baby when you're out for a stroll. WordStar is a vast bulk of a program, but in two years and several countries, I have never known it to glitch so much as a comma unless I clumsily told it to. But sooner or later, WordStar will discover that there's just nowhere to put the last two hours of editing. With all its overlay programs, it homesteads Drive A, and if you can't put all of your file back on Drive B where you found it, you've got yourself some real trouble. That's right. There are still a passle of us out here with 90K discs and files that get too big for them. As an academic who has been obliged for the last several years to travel as light as he can, I've been looking for a word processor that complements my Osborne in efficiency and compactness, a program that shrugs when a drive goes down in Rome or Zurich, and permits recovery from my irresponsible penchant for stuffing files full of more words than is good for me. In CompuView's VEDIT, I think I've found it.

VEDIT is a tiny text editor (my version is 14K, but they tell me the new one has been bloated to 16K), which performs feats of straight prose composition a good deal faster and more efficiently than WordStar. And since it's so small, the measly storage available to me on the Osborne drives looks ample after VEDIT loads completely into memory (no overlays!). Besides, VEDIT provides file handling from the keyboard so comprehensive that it encourages downright recklessness when it comes to manipulating large blocs of prose. But all that in its place.

In its visual mode, VEDIT is what's called a full-screen editor. You are presented with a "new file" — an empty screen you proceed to fill, typing letters which appear just behind the moving cursor — or a file you've already written and stored on disc, which VEDIT calls up and presents for changes or additions. In either case, VEDIT makes available to you an inventory of manipulations which are performed at the cursor location by typing a control or escape key together with one other. What keys? That's up to you, since VEDIT is completely customizable. An installation program permits you to assign the forty-five manipulations to any keys you wish. As with all such installation programs, you'll need a few runs at it before you get it right, but the instructions, though spare, are clear enough. At any rate, I built my commands around the WordStar menus, since I was so familiar with them. Block moves are initiated with ^K, the zips to the end of a line are ^Qd, deletes are ^G, and so on. If you're already familiar with another program, you'll probably want to configure VEDIT to resemble it. Why waste hard-won skills? VEDIT's great virtue as a text handler lies in its ability to handle large files. I can put about 40K into memory cheek by jowl with the 14K program. You'll appreciate that with all the manipulations already in there, speed of execution in my 4MHz machine is satisfyingly brisk. When I want to go to the end of my text, VEDIT takes me with dispatch; when I order a line deleted, I do not have to wait as I do for WordStar to load the overlay appro-

prate to such tasks before my command is executed. What's more, WordStar doesn't much like large texts: bigger files had better be broken up if the program is to perform smoothly. VEDIT, on the other hand, has remarkable virtual capacity. It deals with files the size of a disc almost as easily as those which fit into memory. Like WordStar, it provides auto buffering. For those of you who've never used a text processor with this feature, auto buffering simply means that the author who edited his way to the end of memory will notice the discs go on as the top of his file is saved and a chunk of space or stored text is added to the bottom. VEDIT does this beautifully. Most important, it does it infrequently. It is designed to embrace a large text and work on it with no more reference to the discs than absolutely necessary. Discs are slow, memory is fast; that's the trick of it. VEDIT is a little program with a big heart.

Does it skimp? It is enough to say that virtually any manipulation I can do with WordStar, the measure of generosity in these things, I can do at least as well with VEDIT. I can't search backward with VEDIT, and WordStar permits a couple of wild-card searches I miss in VEDIT: find every period followed by any character not a space, for example, lets me correct a perennial problem in my typing. But apart from this, the search and replace options in VEDIT are more ample than WordStar's.

It is important to note, however, that VEDIT offers very little in the way of hard-copy services. WordStar's Install program permits a sophisticated and rewarding use of your printer which CompuView acknowledges as beyond the power of VEDIT. They may be selling themselves a little short, however. For example, Vedit provides the user with ten "registers". Among their many uses is the capacity to hold "macros": shorthand intructions to VEDIT to operate on the whole text in complex ways. These instructions, designed by the user to suit himself, may be saved in a way that they are automatically loaded with VEDIT, ready at a keystroke to do complex manoeuvres within the text. One of my most useful macros sets up my text in 95-character lines and instructs my NEC 8023A to open the space between lines and skip paper perforations by counting line feeds. The result of this is an elegant-looking draft which prints much faster than WordStar ordered to do similar work. Using VEDIT, the NEC will print from right to left as well as from left to right: the usual logic-seeking advantage. In anything more than single-spacing, however, WordStar permits printing only as the head moves to the right. Beyond inserting a line feed, the printer does nothing as the head returns to the beginning of the next line. Result: double the printing time if you choose WordStar as your vehicle over VEDIT. Another trick in VEDIT's admittedly small printing repertoire is useful as all get-out. Operating as with a block move, you can print out a portion of your text directly from the screen, without saving it first. But all this being said, VEDIT has nothing like WordStar's famous dot commands, especially when implemented by the marvellous Mail-Merge program. CompuView suggests that you can enjoy the best of all possible worlds by running a VEDIT program through WordStar if



you want to use anything in the WordStar formatting inventory. VEDIT files are in standard ASCII format, and any other text processor will read them.

The authors of VEDIT express some surprise at the lack of file-handling facilities in the flossy word processor programs, and after using VEDIT, I can't help but agree. If you signal VEDIT to save a long file after a long edit session, you may get a "disc full" signal, just like WordStar. But VEDIT expects this to happen occasionally, and offers several solutions. You may of course free up some space on a disc by killing a disc file from within the program, and trying another save. But if there ever was a bad practice in text processing, that's it. Far better is the ability to close the file on disc if a text save reaches the disc storage limit; given the large amount of text VEDIT entertains in memory, chances are that what has just been saved, together with what's left in memory make up the whole text. Now you need only open a file on another drive and save the rest of the memory to it, or insert a new disc and save the memory portion of the file into a file you open there. When you've left VEDIT, you can join the two portions of the single text with PIP or a similar facility. Sometimes it's not so simple, but it usually is, and even the hard saves will rescue what WordStar writes off. I like this feature of VEDIT a lot: it's bloody important to a writer to know his program contains that escape port. You can do yourself a lot of damage if you spot the text pointer in the wrong place when you write out or close, but I'd much rather have the opportunity to save my edited text than WordStar's foolproof file closing that simply chucks what I've done in the last half-hour to salvage what I started with. And, like everything else in this business, it's fun to learn to do it right so long as you play with junk files until you know what you're doing.

Furthermore, VEDIT is a lifesaver if one disc is down. WordStar buffers its commands, and much of the program is resident not in the memory but on the disc, to be called when needed. Naturally, this limits the space left on the disc for text files; even double density discs soon approach the limits of space and WordStar's ability to manipulate files larger than 30K. Despite the efforts of hackers everywhere, the auto backup operation of WordStar, and its adamant refusal to let the writer change discs has sooner or later painted writers into a corner from which he emerges only at the cost of text lost forever. VEDIT, on the other hand, not only offers a whole spectrum of saves from the full-disc dilemma, but resides entirely in memory. The combination of its ability to open and close files, and the fact that discs may be popped in and out of a drive, mean that that you are not down with a busted drive so long as you have another that can be brought up as Drive A. (One of the unsung joys of our lamented Osbornes was the ease with which this can be done with either drive.) A copy of VEDIT on a single-density disk leaves you with space galore to write on that same disk.

Because it is intended to do so much and take up so little space, VEDIT requires a good deal of attention and practice to use expertly. This is especially true if you have use for an editorial facility which VEDIT offers and which even experienced

text operators may know nothing about: the VEDIT "command mode" brings up a TECO-type editor, familiar to folks who broke their hearts trying to write with them on mainframes in the days when that's all there was. You don't operate on the screen with TECOs. You look at the text in hard-copy and plan an editing strategy. Then you give an order that might look something like:

b ^[f ^M ^M ^[g 6 ^[l ^]] b ^[v ^[^[

Upon receipt of the order, VEDIT would start looking from the top of the file(b) for a paragraph (^M^M). When it found one, it would insert (g) whatever you have stored in Register 6. Then it would move down one line (l) and began once more to look for a paragraph, proceeding in this way through the entire text. When it had finished, it would return to the beginning of the file (b), and come up with the first screenful of text in the visual mode (v). So long as you can toggle into the visual mode, such a facility can be a powerful adjunct, capable of saving hours of peering into a monitor. Let me offer an example from my own experience. As many of you have discovered, a data base is a precious thing, built over a long time with a great expenditure of man hours. Its author gets familiar with it: its usefulness, its flexibility, its power to delight with new associations and relationships. As it grows, however, the author soon discovers that his original design is awkward or heedless or just inelegant. Invariably, the recall devices will have to be modified, but changing the indexing structure is a real chore. Apart from making the data base program unhappy, changes must be MADE. The texts must go back into the machine, each one to be edited appropriately from the keyboard. Sometimes this is simply unavoidable, but often a TECO-like editor turns this stoop labor into a piece of cake.

I use a wonderful data base program developed by FYI in Austin, Texas, called Superfile. It permits me to take any piece of prose of any length — a citation, a quotation, a letter, an idle thought — and index it, using any key word that strikes my fancy in any order that it occurs to me. The record is initiated by the signal *C, which marks the beginning of the passage. The end of the record is marked by the signal *K, which begins the string of key words I've decided to use for this record. Anywhere between these two signals I'm free to place a single asterisk. The text between the "*C" signal and the single "*" is designed to generate a short version of the record which when recalled with similar versions of other records, permits the author to choose which he wants to examine more fully at that time. Only after more than a year did it occur to me to harness this facility to a real task, but by the time I thought of the trick, hundreds of records had been indexed with no particular attention paid to what lay between the "*C" and the single "*". The prospect of redoing all those records with WordStar, one at a time, made my teeth hum.

Here's how VEDIT handled it. Using hard copy, I wrote an appropriate "*C" line for every record, a line that ended in a single "*". I took the heap of lines and dumped them into VEDIT, taking care only that one followed the other in the same order as the records in their 15 files on 5 discs were waiting to be modified. I then said to the program: "Go to each record.

Open a line after the *C you'll find there. Pick up the top line from the heap, insert it on one line after the "*C", even if it's up to 120 characters long, and delete the line from the heap where you found it. When you come to the end of a file, start on the next file. When you come to the end of a disc, signal; I'll take out the completed work and give you the next disc to work on." To be sure, the register (secondary buffer) capacity of VEDIT is limited, and I had to divide my pile of lines into two, processing one batch and then the other, but it worked fine. Don't try anything like that on a word processor, friends. It'll only snivel. But a TECO-type editor clicks and hums its way through all this with no difficulty.

Alas, just as one begins to wonder if there are any limits to the possibilities of the TECO macro, VEDIT begins finally to tire. VEDIT will not allow a macro which toggles out of the text (visual) mode and into command mode (TECO) though it will permit a macro to finish by returning the operator to a screen full of text. This is especially annoying when one would like to punch a function key in the middle of a sentence and have the program told to leave the text, enter the memory, put an underline marker at the cursor's last position, go back to the beginning of the line and insert the other half of the underline marker pair and come back on screen with everything as it was except for the underline markers now properly in place. One key stroke. Sometimes you can make a pretty fair macro to do this sort of thing with the "~Qa" function in WordStar. But it's no good to you unless you can save it on a function key or a key-mod program like SMARTKEY: you'll just have to make the macro again when you have another long book title to underline. I could design dozens of such devices if I could get in and out of VEDIT's command mode with a macro. Used in conjunction with one of the several small programs like SMARTKEY designed to create function keys whether your hardware offers them or not, this feature alone would make VEDIT soar. But VEDIT stumbles over itself if you program a function key to include the exit from the text to downstairs where the macros are set to work. You'll have to punch out yourself before you hit the function key. Well, that's not so bad, I suppose: it's just that VEDIT is so elegant that finding this shortcoming is like discovering a few peanuts in a tin of cashews. Nothing disqualifying, but must it be so?

Along these lines, it is bewildering to discover that the operator cannot reformat the text with a macro. Most of us who do word processing are accustomed to reformatting our prose to make the best use of, say, proportional print. This may not be available through our word processing programs, but even dot matrix printers increasingly support it. My NEC 8023 does, for example. Now proportional print looks best when it is printed as a 85- to 110 character line; this is usually longer than our monitors will display without lateral scrolling. Thus we're routinely writing on our screens far shorter lines than we want to print. Naturally, we will be particularly concerned with the reformatting capacity of our text program. VEDIT has a command for reformatting one paragraph. Unfortunately, that's the extent of its capabilities. Don't mistake me: the command is fast. But the operator must return to the visual mode

and the top of the file, giving the command once for every paragraph he wishes to print. A document in memory can be reshaped from a 50- or 60-character line to 100-characters by pecking rapidly on the appropriate key while holding down the Control key. It really makes no difference if your flurry sends more signals than are needed; reformatting goes on until the end of file or the last reformatting signal is recognized. Since so much of the document is in memory as compared to WordStar, reformatting can actually be faster than WordStar's ^Qq^B, which operates on successive pieces of your text loaded from disk for editing and passed back to make room for new chunks. Even with its one reformatting command, VEDIT can be made to work well compared to that. But it is not unreasonable to expect to do the trick in command mode, typing five or six characters to signal: go to the top of the file; reformat every paragraph; come up in visual mode when you're done. That would be the cat's meow, all right. Unfortunately, one of the few commands in the visual mode which cannot be duplicated in the command mode is reformatting.

There's another failing which seriously inhibits VEDIT as a word processor. Most of the text I write is peppered with paragraph headings, titles, and the like. When I reformat, I want to see these poised above the new paragraphs exactly as they were before. WordStar leaves them alone, since they end in what Microsoft calls "hard" carriage returns, just like paragraphs. Alas, when VEDIT reformats, it simply sees a heading as a short line and tacks the beginning of the next line on to it. If you want VEDIT to ignore a heading or title line, you must add a blank line between it and the following paragraph. In effect, you turn it into a one-line paragraph. Not a good strategy, since paragraph divisions ought to be just that, not barriers to keep the reformatter at bay. It ought to be possible to immunize a title line from the reformatter as it sets about its work.

None of these modifications would add a great deal to the size of VEDIT, and would permit this grand little program to serve us with enormous panache. Compuvision describes some of the modifications it plans to make to VEDIT, but I can't help but wonder if my modest proposals might contribute more to the power of VEDIT in the textual environment than their more elaborate (but fatter) ambitions. It would be clever of Compuvision to suggest that a generic program of the sort SMARTKEY represents so well, would heighten VEDIT's performance. VEDIT need only incorporate the simple devices which would make it so. That's the kind of marketing that makes sense, at least to this user. And the result would be a super text processor at small cost both in money and memory.

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Desktop Accountant from Rocky Mountain Software

by Randy Feldman

The DESKTOP ACCOUNTANT published by Rocky Mountain Software Systems of Walnut Creek, CA is a versatile accounting program which includes a general ledger, accounts receivable, accounts payable, and payroll programs. All programs are integrated and are easy to master and put into service by the smallest of businesses with a minimum of effort.

When the system arrives and the box is opened the material that comes out of the box can be overwhelming. Included with the package are 2 3-ring binders, 4 program manuals, an installation manual, your program and installation disks, and an audio cassette tape which takes you through a step by step procedure of the installation of the Desktop Accountant. After sorting through the mounds of reading material and placing the manuals in their new homes, the installation procedure begins.

Installing the Desktop Accountant follows the same procedure as most of the "Data Base" systems available on the market today. After the usual disk-swapping and answering a few questions the disks are ready to be filled with "real" data.

The entire system is menu driven and an inexperienced computer user can walk through the system with a minimum of problems. If you do get "hung up" you can usually hit the return key and the program will take you to a lower level menu and you can reenter the program in the area you wish to work in. Error messages are few in number and when you do encounter one, it is brief, to the point, and assists you in correcting the error. A more detailed explanation is included in the manual.

Despite the manuals (there being one manual for each program and an installation manual) being "printed" by a xerox machine, they are some of the best examples of documentation I have seen. Each manual includes an overview of the program, an operator's guide and a special AIDS section which includes using the sample data and, in the case of the general ledger program, routine procedures for the ledger; how the system handles credits and debits in addition to the proper procedure for interacting with information from other systems. The manual also includes sample files and reports so one may see the format which the real documents will take. This is also helpful to the accounting novice so he may make a decision on which reports will suit his needs best.

I always make it a point to call the technical support group of each publishing company so I may see how they function and interact with the customer. Identified with my name and serial number only, I spoke to several different people during various times of the business day and each representative is polite, knowledgeable, and helpful. All the representatives stayed on the line while I reentered the information into the computer and did not rush me off the phone. They thanked me for calling and invited me to call again if I ran into any other problems. A sign of a professional technical support group.

When calling for technical aid be prepared to pay for your call, as there is no toll-free telephone number. Free technical aid is available for the first 90 days from the execution of the license agreement. Any technical support required from Rocky Mountain Software is available at the rates of \$45.00 for each hour in addition to the cost of the phone call. A technical support service contract is sold at a rate of \$50.00 per month.

I found the Desktop Accountant a straight-forward accounting system designed to be used in an environment where accounting needs to be sophisticated but on a limited budget. The system is easy to use and did not have any major bugs or idiosyncrasies.

The Desktop Accountant can run on most CP/M systems and costs \$395.00, \$495.00 for IBM and some CP/M systems. For ordering or information, call 1-800-832-2244 or write Rocky Mountain Software Systems, 1280-C Newell Avenue, Suite 1211, Walnut Creek, CA 94596.

Randy is the Vice-President of Long Island Osborne Network (LION), an Affiliated Member Organization. The groups meetings are listed in the CALENDAR section.

SYSTEM NOTES

Modification of "AUTOST" to Define Cursor Functions for the Nuevo Electronics 80 Column Upgrade

by R. J. Koziol

Recently, I purchased and installed a Nuevo Electronic's 80 column upgrade for my tan case O-1. When I finished installing the modification, I found that the cursor was set to a fast blinking underline and you are given the option of other types of cursor configurations. However, you either have to adjust some internal jumpers or run an assembly language program to get them.

Personally, I didn't like the cursor as it was supplied. In addition, I found that the blinking cursor seemed to slow down some of the cursor positioning functions in programs like "WordStar".

If you have a small amount of assembly language experience, the CRT controller programming information supplied with the upgrade gives you enough information to modify the cursor functions with software to suit your particular needs.



Initially, I was going to write a small menu driven "com" type program to do these changes but since the cursor returns to its default settings every time you either press the "reset" button or you turn the machine off, it meant running this program more often than I wanted. Another disadvantage to the separate program was that it used up diskette space and a directory entry.

My solution was to develop a small patch for the "Autost" program. This patch automatically sets up the cursor to predefined functions, occupies no more diskette space than the original "Autost" program and doesn't require any extra steps when running the machine.

This patch requires the use of DDT and can be accomplished in a few minutes. Since the original program has some jumps to fixed memory locations, you cannot simply insert blocks of code without getting some strange results. I found that the simplest method of getting around this, required the removal of the first complete instruction consisting of three bytes and replacing it with a call instruction (also three bytes long) to a subroutine at the end of the program. This subroutine contains the instructions defining the cursor functions and the instruction removed from the beginning of the original "Autost" program. This seems like a pretty straight forward procedure. However, there is one catch. Apparently, there are at least two versions of the "Autost" program in the field, one longer than the other. So before making any modifications you should determine the length of the "Autost" program to be modified so you can set the correct location for the subroutine.

Assuming you have DDT on your A: drive and the "Autost" program in the B: drive, from the CP/M A> prompt enter:

DDT B:AUTOST.COM ↵

The machine responds:

DDT VERS 2.2

NEXT PC

0B00 0100

Beneath the NEXT PC you will see two hexadecimal numbers and a -. The number under NEXT should be noted for later use. At the — enter **D** and the machine will respond with series of hexadecimal numbers and their ascii interpretation. The left hand column of hex numbers is the program location for the first hex instruction in each line on the screen.

Keep entering **D** until you see continuous repeated letters in the right hand column. At the end of these strings of letters you will see a "\$". After this there will be a series of empty memory locations, this is where you will put the subroutine. This location should be around hex 0A21 depending on the version of "AUTOST" you are looking at.

Once you determine the location for the subroutine, return to the beginning of the program by entering **D0100** at the — prompt. The first instructions at locations 0100, 0101 and 0102 are the three bytes which will be replaced with the **CALL** instruction.

Assuming the location for the subroutine is hex 0A30, you should enter:

A0100 ↵

CALL 0A30 ↵ (or the location where the subroutine will be located)

When you use the **A** instruction with DDT the machine responds with the hexadecimal number of the location that will be changed. After you enter the ↵ the machine will respond with a hyphen (-).

Next go to the location for the subroutine by entering:

AOA30 ↵ (or Annnn, n being the location for the subroutine)

MVI A,0A ↵ (these instructions address the display control **OUT 04** ↵ register)

MVI A,60 ↵ (60 is the hexadecimal command for the function

OUT 05 ↵ desired, for others use the number in the table at the end)

MVI A,0B ↵ (defines the next control register)

OUT 04 ↵

MVI A,09 ↵ (Hex command for the function desired)

OUT 05 ↵

LHLD 01 ↵ (Replacement for the commands removed from the beginning of the AUTOST program.)

RET ↵ (returns to the beginning of the AUTOST program)

When these steps are completed you will need to save the program by entering a ^C and once back at the CP/M A> prompt enter:

SAVE 11 B:TEST.COM ↵

The number after the "SAVE" is the decimal number for the number of pages of memory to be saved. This can be determined by using the decimal equivalent of the left two digits displayed under NEXT when you first entered DDT.

Once the program is saved it should be tested. At the CP/M prompt enter **B:TEST**. The program should run just like the original "AUTOST" except that the cursor should now function as desired. Since the AUTOST program cannot find the correct program to run it will return you to the CP/M prompt.

Once you determine that the program functions properly, the old "AUTOST" program should be deleted, and the "Test" program should be renamed "AUTOST".

I found it convenient to modify the "AUTOST" program on each of my program disks to define the cursor functions according to the program I am running.

The cursor functions defined in step #3 in the program listings set it to a slowly blinking block. For other functions use the numbers in the following table. The left digit defines the cursor function and the right digit defines the cursor starting row. The right digit can be 0 to 9.

Non-blink	00
Cursor off	20
Fast blink	40
Slow blink	60

The number in instruction #7 [?] defines the cursor ending row. Possible numbers are 00 to 09.

[Very nice! I like this system. I am, however, compelled to mention that, by now, Nuevo 80 col. upgrade owners should have received BIOS Installation Disk, Version 7. On that disk is NEWSETUP which allows you to change the cursor along with the other options provided by SETUP. David]

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To Fan or Not to Fan --

That is the Question!

by Gerhard Barth

I have been using my SD-Osborne 1 since October '82 without (knock on wood!) any problems. It is usually on every day for hours, sometimes many — and never gets really hot, so I didn't think I needed a fan. On the other hand, comments in *FOGHORN* and on BBS's convinced me that fan-cooling would — if nothing else — help extend the life of my machine. I was not enough convinced though to get my drill out and start drilling holes or build a homemade contraption. Commercially available fans for the Osborne seem to do the job — but I didn't like the fact that they were sitting on top of the computer, drawing "dirty" air into it through the disk drives and front vents.

So — I remembered a "NORELCO CLEAN AIR MACHINE" which my wife had bought about a year ago when one of my sons started smoking cigars. It did what it was supposed to do, helped remove smoke and odors as well as particulate matter from the air. And then we moved to Florida — no more cigar smoke and the little machine (it is about 5"x5"x7") ended up in a closet enjoying its retirement as much as its owners. But not for long -- it is now working every day, laying on its side in front of the A-drive (filter facing front) and blowing clean, filtered, cold air into the pocket under the drive as well as some of the front vents. The sloped shape of the Norelco (one side is 5" and the other one 7") allows it to fit nicely next to the keyboard with the computer sitting at a slight angle on the left. The fan motor is quiet, has two speeds and goes on automatically with the computer and all peripherals, since it is plugged into the same powerstrip. Most of the warm air is forced out through the top-vent, some through the B-drive. The computer remains cool . . . and I feel good too!! I use an unscented filter — not the citrus scented one.

There are probably other "machines" like that on the market, obviously any other clean air machine built like the Norelco would do. I am not affiliated in any way with Norelco — we just happened to get this one. Cost: less than \$ 25. So look through your closets, particularly if there are cigar smokers in your family!

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Autostarting Without Autostart

by Benjamin H. Cohen

AUTOST.COM is a program that you find on various program disks that came with your Osborne 1. This "automatic start" feature can be utilized — or bypassed — in many ways. When you boot any disk the Osborne system looks for a program called AUTOST.COM. If it's there, it runs the program. If it's not, the system does what CP/M does whenever commanded to run a file that is not present: it puts the name of the file and a question mark on the screen: AUTOST?.

For those who have learned how to use SUBMIT the suggestions in this article may seem mundane. For those who have not, I hope these suggestions will be of some help.

One way to deal with AUTOST is to ignore it. Delete it from your disks. When the AUTOST? comes up on the screen, hit whatever function key you have set up to run the sequence you want to run at the beginning of each session, and leave it at that [or enter the program name that you want to run, i.e. *WS* for *WordStar*]. It works, but it uses up some of the limited number of characters you can fit in the special function keys and that ought to be saved for things that you do more than once a session!

A simple way to deal with AUTOST is to rename the program that you want run from a cold boot as AUTOST.COM. That program will be run when you boot the disk. The problem with this is that you can't easily tell from running a directory just what's on the disk. Is AUTOST on this disk XDIR or MBASIC or SIZE?

The library contains several offerings to let you deal with AUTOST in a more rational manner. NEWAUTO comes in two versions, one for WordStar and one for SuperCalc. You put the appropriate version on your disk and rename it as AUTOST. When NEWAUTO runs it first runs SIZE.COM (to allow you to set the screen size for those who have SCREEN-PAC) and when you have selected the screen size and hit the $\rightarrow$ it runs the application program indicated. You can change the program if you want to, the DOC file with NEWAUTO contains information about the memory locations where changes can be made.

SETAUTO (and SETAUTO2) allow you to set a disk so that it has no autostart, to autostart on cold boot, to autostart on warm boot, or to autostart on both cold and warm boots. The program that you autostart must not have a name longer than six letters. See the DOC file for full information.

Another pair of programs in the library are special autostart programs for SuperCalc2 and dBase II that start with a date entry program and then run the application when you have entered the date. Unlike DATTIM.COM that comes with SuperCalc2, SC2AUTO.COM does not call for a time that SuperCalc2 doesn't use and skips over the slashes between the month/day/year, so all you have to do is enter the digits. Once you have entered the date it remains in memory until you turn the computer off, so if you reboot later with either of these programs without having turned off the computer (or having overwritten the area where the date is stored), the date comes up with the autostart and you simply hit the $\rightarrow$ if it's the date



you want. The programs are called DBAUTO.COM and SC2AUTO.COM.

Another way to start AUTOST is to "cheat". At the February meeting of Chicago's First Osborne Group (FOG AMO #80) Mike Andrews gave some suggestions on using the library files SYNONYM.COM and /.COM ["Slash"]. The description of these two programs in the library documentation does not seem terribly exciting, but Mike's explanation of what can be done with the two of them together is.

Synonym runs a program under another name. It utilizes the SUBMIT feature to do this, but it's not necessary to know anything about SUBMIT to use Synonym. Synonym also allows you to insert a signal, the # symbol, to indicate a parameter which will be added when the program is run. Now it may not seem to be much of a deal to be able to run a program under a different name, and by itself, it's not, at least as far as I can see. It's the combination with /.COM that makes Synonym powerful.

/.COM allows you to run a sequence of programs with one command line. You simply type the slash followed by whatever sequence of programs you want to run, separated by semicolons.

Now let's get back to AUTOST. Let's say you want to run XDIR on both drives when you boot with WordStar, then run Smartkey II (a commercial keyboard configuration program) with its associated definition file called KEYBOARD, and finally WordStar. Let's create a new AUTOST using Synonym. At the A> prompt, type:

```
Synonym AUTOST / xdir a:: xdir b:: smartkey keyboard; ws ↵
```

This command line tells Synonym to create a new program called AUTOST.COM which will invoke of the Slash program to run the sequence indicated.

(Note that this is not as fast a way of doing this sequence as a special function key would be, but there is usually plenty to do when you are starting a WordStar session, so the extra few seconds that are taken to run this sequence are hardly troublesome.)

Mike gave another example of the synergism between Synonym and Slash. Mike does a daily backup of his accounting data. To automate this process Mike created a program called BACK.COM, using Synonym and Slash. The creation of the program goes like this:

```
Synonym BACK / pip a:=b:*. *; save 0 -#
```

When Mike types BACK he adds the date "030484". BACK then copies all the files from the B: drive — Mike's newly updated accounting files — to the A: drive and then saves an empty file on the A: drive called -030484. When Mike runs XDIR on this disk the empty file comes up at the top of the list to identify the date on which the disk was created.

You can easily imagine uses that you can put this combination to work on. I have a number of disks that now boot XDIR on both drives followed by Smartkey II and an associated definition file and then my application program. The only problem that I have encountered so far is with MBASIC — I get a "File not found" error message and get dumped back to the system.

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Easier Portuguese Characters

by Pete Peterson

Overstriking is a simple way to modify letters if your printer has a backspacing capability (such as the MX 80 or 100). For example, I use overstrikes to produce legible drafts of Portuguese text. If you read Hanns Trostli's article in the Jan 84 issue, this is sort of an auto-transmission Chevy version of his stick-shift Porsche solution; less capable but easier to use. This also has the advantage of requiring only one sequence for each decritical mark, rather than one for each letter in its various forms.

Commanding the printer to type a character, backspace, and print another character on top (overstrike) can be done by using ^PH (control P followed by H) from the WordStar ^P menu. Type the first character, normally a letter, then ^PH, then the character to be printed atop the first. For example a ^PH' yields an "a" with a accent mark leaning to the right. I use the comma with the "c" and use ^ with other letters as needed in the same way.

On the Osborne keyboard, typing ^/ (that's CTRL /) gives the tilda (`) or wavy line mark. Try it. It shows right on your screen and can be used with overstrike by typing ^PH^/. It's not all that bad when you get used to it, and note tht with this system the words your type are still recognizable on the screen. *[When I tried the overstrike on an Epson FX-100, the tilda came out down on top (touching the top) of the n that I was overstriking. You may have to use the superscript command as well. David]*

Backspace problems? Check the WordStar ^PH command string for your printer, using one of the FOG library programs. Sorry I can't be more specific.

For Portuguese there's only one more decritical mark, the left-leaning accent. *[On the Osborne, typing ^= gives the ' . Therefore one can use ^PH^= for overstriking with this "left-leaning accent" mark. David]* I'm still learning the language, but I only know one situation where it's needed, and I rarely see it in print here in Brasilia. I skip it in my rough drafts. Other marks just don't occur except in borrowed words or the equivalent of "Olde English" text. And use your imagination. Overstriking with (", -, :) will open many more possibilities including the German umlaut and the "European" numeral 7.

Greek and all: Sorry. Overstriking does have limits. But for occasional use, the alfa can be an italic "a" and, if you're teaching algebra or engineering, remember that the symbol you use is completely arbitrary and Greek has only tradition, not mathematical meaning, to recommend its use.

Advanced Work: If you want or need special marks, or "real" Greek or other characters, my advice is to go the Porsche route and get a special graphics program to help. The HexPrintR program by CI software is available from Sudden! Products, 3421 M St NW, Washington DC 20007, for \$38 including shipping. It's a good one, and the folks at Sudden! are unusually friendly and prompt. (I live by APO mail and that's essential.) The Trostli article in January plus the HexPrintR manual lay out the process of creating special fonts very well. I use HexPrintR sequences when I want a more polished final copy to use, for example, the italic ' for the accent

rather than the normal one. Still, I prefer one sequence per decritical mark rather than designing each letter by hand. My Epson MX 100 HexPrintR sequences are:

Sequence	Result
^R1B.88.7E^R	tilda
^R1B.88.AC^R	cidilla
^R1B.88.83^R	right accent
^R1B.88.84^R	left accent
^R1B.88.5E^R	circumflex
^R1B.88.81^R	English Pound
^R1B.88.82^R	umlaut

Use some arbitrary character when you type the text, then do global search and replace (^QA.....NG) to put in the sequences. I use function keys to speed the process.

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What Will I do if Ozzie Dies?

Another Source for Drive Options

by Mark Salser

To some of you born etching circuit boards with your fingernails, who merely saw the (thankfully, short-lived) demise of OCC as a challenge to your own native talents and ingenuity, this may seem a petty concern. To many like me, however, whose knowledge of things micro and electronic ends in the unfathomable complexity of a 1959 General Electric toaster, such an occurrence carries the chilling effect of a terminal disease: It's only a matter of time 'til the end.

You can imagine, then, the numbing fear I felt when one day the BDOS Errors came without pause, and a "Format Successful" was as rare as Oregon sunshine. Chills ran up my spine as I imagined some thumb-fingered tech changing boards like I buy Haagen Daz ice cream — wholesale — while the bill mounted to rival my yearly gross income.

On my way to the repair shop, however, I stopped to check the mail and found a copy of the *Portland Microcomputer Society Newsletter*, containing an ad from Rondel Systems (9996 Broadacres Rd., Hubbard OR 97032, (503) 981-8617) offering O1 Double Density upgrades. I immediately called to see if they could also service ailing C1s as well. They could and did.

However, my problem — appropriately enough — turned out to be the OCC DD upgrade having an identity crisis. What can you do? Replace it with another of the same? Faint comfort indeed.

Rondel, however, has designed its own DD upgrade (just \$150, installed, plus shipping) which is completely compatible with Osborne formats (unlike some other third-party upgrades available). Since Ron Reymore there replaced my OCC version with his design my tan-case O1 has performed in all ways the same as the OCC version. No software changes of any kind were necessary, and I have used OCC DD and Rondel DD data disks interchangeably, with nary a hitch. Incidentally, the Rondel DD board is less than half the size of the OCC version, and fits much better beneath the OCC 80-column board.

For Single-density O1 owners, Rondel does not supply new system software. You simply supply a copy of your own system disk when you give them your machine, and they modify your original system tracks (thereby keeping your original CPM registration/serial numbers strictly legit). You merely re-Sysgen all your system disks with this new version (after saving an archive copy of your original version, of course). No other changes are necessary to be up and running in DD.

They are also working to finish a kit version of the DD upgrade for you venturesome types.

A limited number of DD upgrades (several dozen, now including mine — some out for over a year now) have been performed for evaluation purposes on O1s from Washington State to San Francisco, with nary a single failure or complaint. The handmade 1 1/2-year-old prototype still works, and Ron only recently replaced it in his own machine with the latest version.

But Double-density or not, Reymore still felt the same frustration we all do with limited disk space. So he didn't stop with the DD upgrade, but went on to develop a DOUBLE-SIDED drive upgrade with a capacity of 390k per drive, which Rondel offers for \$750 (plus shipping) and also a DS 96 tpi drive version as well (788k ea., \$1050). Moreover, these upgrades retain COMPLETE Osborne format compatibility.

Ron says that the 96 tpi drives can read Osborne formats reliably, but can't be depended to write so that other O1s and Execs can read (tracks are too narrow). He emphasizes that if you want to retain complete Osborne compatibility, the double-sided 48-tpi drives are what you want. Still, they will give you room to get a handle on those big WordStar documents and dBASE files you've now got spread out over two dozen disks, not to mention getting all the major software you've got on ONE disk.

Rondel is also working on replacing O1 drives with half-high drives that would enable one to get four DS DD drives in an O1 or double the disk capacity of your Exec with double-sided half-high drives. Just think . . . 788k of true Osborne-format, portable floppy power in your O1 or Exec (maybe even 1.56 MEGabytes in your O1)! Rondel will also allow any purchaser of a Rondel DD upgrade to apply the cost of that upgrade against one of their disk upgrades.

I can't attest to the accuracy of Rondel Systems' claims about their drive upgrades from personal experience (yet!), but if they prove as effective and dependable as the Rondel DD package, you'll be getting a neat and clean package that could double or quadruple Ozzie's value to you. Can't hurt to talk to them, anyway.

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Hardware VS Software

for Faster Printing

by Ken Mills

There is no question that printing long files can tie up your computer for a long time. This is because the computer must



control each character for the entire print sequence. There are two common methods of getting around this problem. The first method is a software print spooler, which is a fancy name for a program that allows the computer to do something else when a file is being printed. The spoolers work OK, but I have run into some problems when using them. For instance, the WordStar control characters just drove one spooler crazy for some reason. Then, since it is a program, you can only use other programs that will not conflict with the spooler in memory or else one of them is going to lose out. The advantage of spoolers is that they are cheaper than print buffers.

I currently own a Quadram buffer with 80k of ram in it and can't think of what I would do without it. A 26k file will dump to the buffer in just a few seconds and I can fully use my computer right away (or even turn it off). I have also added a printer selector switch from Radio Shack that allows me to select between two printers so I can dump to the buffer and one printer then switch to the other printer for a different print job.

If you are thinking of a buffer, I recommend the Quadram for several reasons. First, you can increase the RAM yourself and save a few dollars. The basic model comes with 8k and expands to 512k max. The second reason I like the Quadram is that it has it's own power supply and is not drawing from the printer (even though it can do this if you really want). The last reason is that the buffer comes in any combination of serial or parallel input and output ports. All you need to do is set the protocol if you are using serial communication for your printer and plug the power supply in. You just unplug your cable from the printer and plug it in the buffer. Then plug the buffer cable into your printer and you are set for rapid printing with minimum requirements on your computer.

• • • • •

Intermittent BDOS ERRORS

by Ken Mills

I have had my share of the now infamous BDOS errors on my DD 0-1. Some of the 'fixes' I have either found or heard of through other people are listed below.

1. One time the problem was caused by a little extra insulation on the end of my power cable. It sounds strange but the extra length of the molded plug caused the connectors inside to be a little short of making good contact with the socket pins inside the rear of the computer. This problem was discovered after a disk drive and the main board were both replaced and the problem was still there. I just trimmed about an eighth of an inch from the cable plug and the errors have only popped a few times since then.

2. For those who have finally given up and carried the computer to the shop only to find that you couldn't duplicate the problem, maybe all you had was a loose or slightly corroded drive connector. All you need to do in this instance is carefully open the case and check the cables for a snug fit and no corrosion. You may not be able to see the corrosion (like you would on a car battery) so carefully work the connector on and off a

few times and see if this doesn't clean up the problem for a while. On double density machines do the cable to the DD board when you are in there.

3. Another intermittent problem can occur related to the track ZERO sensing ability of the drive itself. I can't tell you how to check this yourself so if you are taking the computer in for repair, ask them to check this area before spending a lot of time and money. It worked well on 7 out of a group of 29 machines that I was familiar with last year.

4. The last problem area I found was when the drives got slightly off speed in the DD machines. I found that my new DD blue case would not even read some disks written by my original single density 0-1. It wouldn't even read some of it's own disks after a week of use! The fix here is to see if the drives can be speed adjusted. I heard at one time that 0-1 drives were not adjustable but I also heard that they could be adjusted so I don't know the answer here. I had to get a new drive when it happened about a year ago.

That is the sum total of my quick fixes for BDOS errors. I have sent a set of diagnostic programs to the FOG officers that were left on my disk by a repair shop my computer knew as home. If they are not determined to be proprietary, they will be inducted into the FOG library. Watch the library news section in the *FOGHORN* for the next few months to see if they show up.

• • • • •

Portability VS Printer Cables (A "stay-aboard" Card Edge Extender)

by Ken Mills

If you are a frequent mover of your Osborne, or even an infrequent mover, you may be interested in a cable modification that I made. I was getting a little wary of the edge connector on the front of my computer. I knew that someday I would break it off while trying to disconnect the printer cable. I know some people have a flexible ribbon cable that can be rolled up and stored in the disk pocket, but mine wouldn't work that way.

What I did was buy a male and female IDC (clamp on) ribbon connector with 15 pins. If you look at the pin-out for your parallel port, you will see that 15 pins is enough for printer hook-ups. Then I cut my original cable (no stopping now) and carefully installed the IDC 'splice' at the cut. If you do this, be sure to carefully position the connectors so the wires are aligned correctly on BOTH sides. I had to open the printer end of my original cable to see which of the wires was not being used since the cable had more than 15 wires. A careful cut along the insulation between the wires will allow you to pull the cable apart lengthwise to isolate or remove wires that you don't need.

It took a total of 30 minutes for the first one I did but it works just fine. I made the cut at a place that would allow me to store

the connector in the disk pocket when the printer is not connected. One consideration in using this modified cable is to route the cable so it does not interfere with the keyboard in any way when the keyboard is locked against the computer. You never want anything pressing in on the keys for a long period of time or damage can occur. Another thing is that if you have the Osborne modem you may want to have your cable long enough to reach the right side disk pocket. This may require some careful routing to avoid the keyboard.

The supplies for the conversion cost me about \$12.00 from JDR Microdevices. They advertise every month in the back of BYTE magazine and the part numbers are IDB15P and IDB15S. If you are not inclined to do the modification yourself, just send me a card and I will see about helping you with it. Ken Mills, 56 White Pine Ct., California, Maryland, 20619. You didn't mis-read, the city is California!

Hack Yourself a Verified CP/M System

by Dick Ezzard

When things go wrong with computer operations, troubleshooting is difficult because the whole system is incredibly complicated. Problems can be caused by any one of a million things: numerous hardware components, connectors, a bad disk, or by the software being used. The software includes the operating system, the program being run, and data files. Actually, the most common cause of malfunction on my system is Operator Error such as mistyped commands, but assuming you have done everything right for once, and are still getting wrong results, the problem is to isolate the troublemaker. Some problem.

With so many suspects, at that point it is reassuring to be able to confirm that your operating system itself, i.e. the CP/M program which runs the whole shebang, has not become contaminated or glitched in some obscure fashion. The way to assure yourself of a good system is to refer to original software just as it was fresh from the factory. Don't forget that every time you used the SETUP program to write a special function key, or change the baud rate, printer hookup, or screen size, you modified the operating system. The whole system was re-written to the disk and there was a chance for error to insinuate itself during the write operation.

Fortunately, it is possible to put the system itself into a file and get a cyclic redundancy check number which can be used later to verify that the system is still in the same exact state as when originally checked out. The system you put in a file can be the original software, or the system after you fixed it up the way you like it, or both. You can have several files each representing the CP/M system configured in a slightly different way, with, for example, different special function keys.

To make up a file which contains a CP/M system image, use the following procedure:

1. Invoke the SYSGEN program, and use it to get a system off the appropriate disk, such as original uncontaminated software. However, when SYSGEN prompts you for a destination disk, just hit the $\rightarrow$ key without designating anything. This will leave the system image hanging in memory.

2. Use CP/M's SAVE command to save the system image in memory to a file under a name of your own choosing. For a double density system you save 39 "pages" of memory. An example save command is:

SAVE 39 B:CPMVRGIN.SYS

3. Run a CRCK check on the file and write the number down for future reference. If you want to be doubly sure that you have a good file, do everything again from scratch, saving the new file to another disk. Run the CRCK check and make sure the numbers match for both files. You can then be assured that a file with that number represents an error-free CP/M operating system.

4. To really inscribe that system from the file onto a disk's operating system tracks, first use the DDT program to load the file into memory.

DDT B:CPMVRGIN.SYS (example again)

Then hit **<CTRL> C** to exit DDT and leave the file/system image hanging in memory.

5. Invoke the SYSGEN program again, but when prompted for a source to get the system, just hit the $\rightarrow$ key since you already have the system image hanging in memory.

6. When SYSGEN asks you for a destination, put it to the disk of your desire.

For trouble-shooting, such system files can be used in a couple of ways. If you have previously stored the exact system you are currently operating under (including special function keys, arrow keys, baud rate, etc.) and know the CRC number, run a check on your current system. Just use SYSGEN to grab the system and then SAVE it into a file. Run the CRCK.COM program on the file and if the number is right, you are operating with an OK system.

Another way would be to re-install a fresh verified system from one of your double-checked files. If you still have errors during operation, at least you will know it is not due to something which has sneaked into the operating system. Then all you have to worry about is hardware, connections, thermals, disks, the program being run and the data it is using. And oh yes, the operator.

For those who are technically inclined, some details have been glossed over in the above exposition. The files saved include some "administrative overhead" code which is not part of the actual CP/M system image but is used in saving and writing the system image to a disk. What you really saved was a "state of memory" arrived at during the SYSGEN operation. When you load the file (maybe weeks later), you restore the status of memory to the way it was in the middle of SYSGEN when you interrupted and saved the file. You can then re-invoke SYSGEN to pick up where you left off.

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Using AMCALL With the PASSWORD/COURIER Modem

by T. J. Olney

Contrary to some reports that have appeared in the *FOGHORN*, Amcall does work with other Modems, the only limitation is that it no longer knows how to dial. But it works, all its other features work, and you don't have to learn a new program if you already know it. It works for 1200 baud if you have a recent enough version to have CONFIG-A.COM. CONFIG-A.COM generates ZIP files which configure the program to different default settings. (MicroCALL Services sold me an update for \$25 last year.)

You might well ask, why not just use one of those really great modem programs available from the FOG library? The reason, for me anyway, revolves around the transmission of a BREAK signal. I recently purchased a PASSWORD modem made by US Robotics. This comes with a cable for the RS232 port. When sold as a Courier, the same modem comes with a 9-pin connector for the Modem port. For people who do not need to implement the TTL level signals (notably BREAK) of the modem port, the RS232 connector works. Some of us need BREAK so it pays to get a modem that hooks up to the Modem port and software that will induce the Motorola 6850 ACIA chip to send breaks. So I swapped my cable for a nine pin cable directly through US Robotics. (They were helpful and prompt.)

To use Amcall with the PASSWORD/COURIER do the following:

- Configure a zip file the way you want it including changing the baud to 1200.
- Erase or rename phone.num so it can't be found.
- Invoke A> Amcall — Z:yourfile.zip
- When you are told to "ENTER DIGIT STRING FOLLOWED BY ↵" ignore the message and hit ↵.

(if you haven't hidden PHONE.NUM, issue @↵ to do conventional dialing, then enter ↵ as above.)

- Wait patiently while Amcall thinks it is working until it gives you the message. "CONNECTION ESTABLISHED BEGIN-COMMUNICATIONS" (a blatant lie).
- Now hit AT
- The modem should respond OK.
- At this point, the US Robotics manual starts to make sense, as you can now "talk" to the modem.
- For example, AT DT 4157552030 ↵ causes the modem to use tone dialing to dial the FOG RCP/M. (Spaces ignored)
- Once you have really established communications, the AT seems to pass right through the modem with no effect. (It better, just imagine what would happen to ordinary text in all caps.)
- You can now use any of the Amcall functions.
- If you only use one other computer or only need one configuration, make it AMCALL.ZIP and you can abbreviate the above by invoking:

A> AMCALL -@0

which will take you directly to the ORIGINATE MODE and will say "Enter ↵ when ready for digital communications"

- Enter ↵

When you see: "CONNECTION ESTABLISHED BEGIN-COMMUNICATIONS", you should proceed as before with the AT commands.

- You can program your special function keys to hold frequently dialed numbers or frequently used Amcall escape sequences.

Good luck . . . Have fun.

WS Installation:

Osborne /WordStar /NEC 8023A/C (or N) (Greek-Scientific Capability Featured)

by H. Bradt

[An earlier version of this was published in *BOGNEWS* Feb/Mar 1984 which includes an ERROR: The codes in Table 2 (MORPAT patches for WS2.2) cannot be used verbatim in WS 3.3. The correct values are given here.]

I have installed, into WordStar, the patches which make possible the use of the greek/scientific capability of the NEC 8023A dot-matrix printer. The use of such characters within a line is highly useful to Scientists/Engineers. The Greek/Sci letter set is commandable with hex codes (a hardware switch need not be flipped) and the dot-matrix head precludes the annoyance of printing with two run-throughs with two daisy wheels.

I worked this out for WS 2.2 and WS 3.3 which I use respectively with an Osborne I and an Osborne Executive. I use the NEC 8023 A/C (early model) and NEC 8023 A/N (late model) with either system. Super/subscript execution proved to be difficult due to bugs in the 8023 A/C and limited patch space in WordStar.

I document here the WordStar patches I used, including an assembly language patch to implement "true" super/subscripts (s/s) which are raised less than 1/2 space. This patch returns the printer to single-space mode after each s/s, but WS's double spacing will work. It also drives the printer roller up and down for each s/s; hence the paper will not always return accurately to the original line unless you use the "friction" feed clamp. There is a simpler solution for s/s (1/2 line printing; ref. *FOGHORN* May 1982) but it slows the NEC 8023 A/C down a factor of two and the s/s run into the line above in single- spacing.

I do not choose to use the limited WS USER keys to implement features which are usually used for an entire document (e.g. Graphics — Esc #; 10cpi — Esc N, 12 cpi — Esc E) because one can PIP the appropriate control codes to the Printer before printing with WS.



I am giving a diskette to the BOG/FOG Library [4/4/84] which includes a more extensive document, WSNECSCI.DOC, which explains the rationale for these codes, how to install them, and the assembly language listing of the s/s patch. It can be a model for your own customized patches.

Another version of this installation has been prepared by Dennis Leong of NEC Home Electronics. It stresses more general access to the printer features, but leaves one (I believe) with some formatting problems for Greek/Sci work. The best version is probably a mix of the two versions. His version is on the Disk I am giving to FOG — File WS8023.ASM.

Direct Installation With DDT or SID

Here are the HEX codes and locations for both WS 2.2 and WS 3.3. Implementation requires NEC SWITCH SW 2-6 TO BE CLOSED (i.e. in 7-bit mode). Also, S/S SCRIPT ROUTINE (given below) MUST BE INSTALLED IN MORPAT. I used DDT or SID to install the following:

Note, I give only the first location of a string of codes; 04 hex goes in loc. 0696, 0D hex goes into loc. 0697, etc.

(^ = Control Key)

Function	Key	Code	Hex	WS	Vers.	Loc.	Install (Hex)
Overstrike method				POSMTH	2.2	0690	FF
					3.3	0699	FF
Boldstrike	^B (4 strikes)			BLDSTR	2.2	0691	04
					3.3	069A	04
Triple strk	^D (3 strikes)			DBLSTR	2.2	0692	03
					3.3	0698	03
CR/LF/Logic CR (fix for s/script)				PSCRLF	2.2	0696	04 0D 0A 1B 5D
					3.3	069C	0A 0D 0A 1B 5D
Remove delay in Carriage Return				PSCR	2.2	06A1	01 0D
					3.3	06A7	No change
Underline	^PA Esc X	1B.58		PALT	2.2	06B5	02 1B 58
					3.3	06BB	04 1B 58
Stop	^PN Esc Y	1B.59		PSTD	2.2	06BA	02 1B 59
					3.3	06C0	04 1B 59
Roll up	^ (Lft curly brkt)			ROLUP	2.2	06BF	01 7B
					3.3	06C5	04 7B
Roll Down	^ (Rt curly brkt)			ROLDOW	2.2	06C4	01 7D
					3.3	06CA	04 7D
Greek/Sci	^PQ Esc &	1B.26		USER1	2.2	06C9	02 1B 26
					3.3	06CF	04 1B 26
(Greek/Sci: Switch 2-6 closed (7-bit))							
Askii	^PM Esc \$	1B.24		USER2	2.2	06CE	02 1B 24
					3.3	06D4	04 1B 24
Enlarged	^PE SO	OE		USER3	2.2	06D3	01 OE
					3.3	06D9	04 OE
Clear	^PR SI	OF		USER4	2.2	06D8	01 OF
					3.3	06DE	04 OF
Katakana	^PE	Same as Enlarged, except SW1-2 open (JA7)					
U.S.	^PR						
Enhanced	^PY Esc I	1B.21		RIBBON	2.2	06D0	02 1B 21
					3.3	06E3	04 1B 21
Clear	^PY Esc "	1B.22		RIBOFF	2.2	06E2	02 1B 22
					3.3	06E8	04 1B 22
S/S swtch (Calls PUSEND)				CSWTCH	2.2	0717	02*
					3.3	0717	02*
Call Morpat				PUSEND	2.2	074F	C3 E0 02
					3.3	0747	C3 D0 02
Morpat (Hex codes for scripts)				MORPAT	SEE LISTINGS BELOW		

(*Caution: the value of CSWTCH gets changed to some other value if an option is chosen for "Driver Menu" in the WS3.3 INSTALL program.)

LABEL ON LOGO — Location 01B4 (WS 2.2)(?? for WS 3.3)

```

4E 45 43 20 38 30 32 33
N E C      8 0 2 3
41 20 50 72 69 6E 74 65 72 20 48 42 31 20
A   P r i n t e r   H B 2

```

MORPAT

Patch Codes to be Installed in WordStar 2.2 (Osborne 1)

Use locations 02E0 to 033F of WS.COM. Install the hex codes given below in the second column beginning at location 02E0. Put FE hex in location 02E0, 7B in location 02E1, etc. down to location 033F where you install 34 hex. Use DDT or SID. It's easy, but use a spare copy of WS in case you blow it.

Loc	Code		
02E0	FE7B	0313	1B543234
02E2	CAED02	0317	00
02E5	FE7D	0318	00
02E7	CA1C03	0319	00
02EA	C31D07	034A	00
02ED	E5	031B	00
02EE	D5	031C	E5
02EF	C5	031D	D5
02F0	210503	031E	C5
02F3	46	031F	213403
02F4	23	0322	46
02F5	7E	0323	23
02F6	E5	0324	7E
02F7	C5	0325	E5
02F8	CD1D07	0326	C5
02FB	C1	0327	CD1D07
02FC	E1	032A	C1
02FD	05	032B	E1
02FE	C2F402	032C	05
0301	C1	032D	C22303
0302	D1	0330	C1
0303	E1	0331	D1
0304	C9	0332	E1
0305	11	0333	C9
0306	1B5B	0334	0B
0308	1B543038	0335	1B5B
030C	1B72	0337	1B543038
030E	0A0A	033B	0A
0310	1B66	033C	1B543234
0312	0A		

MORPAT Patch Codes for WordStar 3.3 (Osborne Exec)

For WordStar 3.3 (Osborne Executive), load the equivalent codes beginning at location 02D0. I do not know the exact location of MORPAT in WS3.3 but am quite sure these locations (02D0 — 032F) are within it. The codes to patch into WS3.3 follow.

Loc	Code		
0200	FE7B	0303	1B543234
0202	CADD02	0307	00
0205	FE7D	0308	00
0207	CA0C03	0309	00
020A	C31C07	030A	00
020D	E5	030B	00
020E	D5	030C	E5
020F	C5	030D	D5
02E0	21F502	030E	C5
02E3	46	030F	212403
02E4	23	0312	46
02E5	7E	0313	23
02E6	E5	0314	7E
02E7	C5	0315	E5
02E8	CD1C07	0316	C5
02EB	C1	0317	CD1C07
02EC	E1	031A	C1
02ED	05	031B	E1
02EE	C2E402	031C	05
02F1	C1	031D	C21303
02F2	D1	0320	C1
02F3	E1	0321	D1
02F4	C9	0322	E1
02F5	11	0323	C9
02F6	1B5B	0324	0B
02F8	1B543038	0325	1B5B
02FC	1B72	0327	1B543038
02FE	0A0A	032B	0A
0300	1B66	032C	1B543234
0302	0A		

MORPAT is called by PUSEND which WS calls if CSWTCH = 02 after it has called ROLUP in response to ^T in the file being printed. Left Curly Bracket (Hex 7B) is placed in ROLUP which WS puts in the file (replacing ^T). This MORPAT routine then looks for Left Curly Bracket and substitutes the codes required by the printer for superscript. Ditto for subscript. This works for both the NEC8023A/C and the NEC8023A/N. Note that if you put Curly Brackets in the document, you get a 1/3 line roll up (roll down) in the printed document. These are accessed with Control Comma (^,) and Control Period (^.) respectively.

A Blinking Cursor for WordStar 3.3 by Charles Zacky

After several unsuccessful attempts to patch WordStar using the WSPATCH program in the March 1984 issue of *FOGHORN*, I discovered my trouble was the size of my CP/M system. It was 1K smaller than normal to make room for a real time clock (J.G. Communications). Instead of just changing the few BIOS references in the program, I added a routine to let the program figure out where my BIOS was, add the offsets,

and patch them in. I could install the blinking cursor on any of my WordStar disks without the inconvenience of changing the patch program or worrying about the size of the CP/M. It worked great, but before I could congratulate myself, along came the WordStar upgrade (release 3.3). Thanks to a tip I found in *FOGHORN* (May 1984, p.48 — when running WINSTALL, type a plus, '+', at the Installation Menu), the new WordStar patch locations were easy to find.

Enter the accompanying listing using WordStar's N option (Non-document mode). To assemble WSPATCH.ASM, put a disk with ASM.COM and LOAD.COM in drive A, put WSPATCH.ASM in drive B, and type what follows each prompt:

A) **ASM WSPATCH.BBZ**

A) **LOAD B:WSPATCH**

You will now have the file WSPATCH.COM on drive B.

To install the blinking cursor, use an expendable copy of WordStar (mistakes always seem to happen). Put WS.COM in drive A, WSPATCH.COM in drive B. Cold boot WordStar to load its system tracks into the computer. Type X at the Opening Menu to eXit to CP/M. Then type:

A) **B:WSPATCH WS.COM**

You will be prompted for a blink rate. After you respond, the disk drives will activate and you'll soon have WordStar with a blinking cursor and automatically reconfigured arrow keys. This approach has worked on my (dad's) DD Osborne 1. I hope someone will check it on the Executive and make any necessary modifications.

```

:*****
:*WSPATCH
:*LEE SWORDY 12/5/82
:* Revised by Jim Woolley, FOG Disk Librarian, 9/82
:* Revised by Scott Stockton for MD-20
:* HD & Rev. 1.4x BIOS with DD and 80 col. upgrade.
:* 7/83
:*
:* Revised by Charles Zacky for Wordstar ver. 3.3
:* 6/84.
:* (NOTE: This will work with any size CP/M.
:*
:*****

```

```

FCB      EQU    5CH      :default file ctrl block
BDOS      EQU    5        :bdos jump point
DIVERT1    EQU    1D78H    :diversion from ws console i/p
                               routine
                               : (changed from 1D33H in WS ver
                               2.2x)
INISUB     EQU    287H     : (changed from 2A4H in WS ver 2.2x)
PATCHSP    EQU    2CBH     :wordstar free patch area
                               : (changed from 2E0H in WS ver 2.2x)
LF         EQU    0AH
CR         EQU    0DH
:
ORG        100H
          JMP    START

```

```

MSG1      DB      1AH,' WSPATCH REV. 1.1',CR,LF
          DB      'INSTALLATION PROGRAM FOR WORDSTAR '
          DB      'PATCHES: ',CR,LF
          DB      '-BLINKING CURSOR',CR,LF
          DB      '-ARROW KEY REDEFINITION',CR,LF
          DB      'FOR OSBORNE CP/M 2.2A-00F '
          DB      '& WORDSTAR VERSION 3.3 ',CR,LF
          DB      LF,LF,'ENTER DESIRED BLINK RATE (0 TO
          DB      9)',CR,LF
          DB      '0 IS VERY FAST, 9 IS VERY SLOW', CR,LF
          DB      CR,LF,LF,'BLINK RATE? $'

MSG2      DB      CR,LF,LF,'**** MODIFICATIONS COMPLETED '
          DB      'SUCCESSFULLY ****',CR,LF
          DB      '$'

:
:BODY OF PATCHES LOCATED HERE
:
          ORG      PATCHSP
PATCHST
: * * * * CURSOR BLINK ROUTINE
:
PATCH1    CPI 06H      :is this an i/p from console call?
          JNZ RETRN1    :no. return to ws
          PUSH H
TIMSET     LXI D,$-$     :blink rate timer (filled in by in-
          :stall routine)
LOOP3      PUSH D
          CALL $-$       :BIOS call to get cons status (filled
          :in by install routine)
          POP D
          ORA A
          JNZ RETRN2     :return to ws if char. ready
          DCR E
          JNZ LOOP3
          DCR D
          JNZ LOOP3      :decr. timer and loop until ready
          LHLD 0EF5AH    :get BIOS cursor pointer
          MOV A,M
          XRI 80H        :toggle cursor (underline on/off)
          MOV M,A
          JMP TIMSET      :restart timer

:
RETRN2     LHLD 0EF5AH    :cursor pointer
          MOV A,M
          ORI 80H        :turn on cursor before leaving
          MOV M,A
          POP H
          MVI A,06        :restore 'A' contents
RETRN1     CALL 1777H     :ws inst. that diversion replaced
          :              :(changed from 173FH in WS ver. 2.2x)
          RET

:
: * * * * ARROW KEY REDEFINITION ROUTINE
:

```

```

PATCH2    LHLD $-$      :BIOS arrow key def'n pointer
          :              :(filled in by install routine)
          MVI M,05H      :^E
          INX H
          MVI M,04H      :^D
          INX H
          MVI M,18H      :^X
          INX H
          MVI M,13H      :^S
          RET

:
:FOLLOWING PATCH RESETS CP/M ARROW KEYS
:
PATCH3     LHLD $-$      :(filled in by install routine)
          MVI M,0BH      :^K
          INX H
          MVI M,0CH      :^L
          INX H
          MVI M,0AH      :^J
          INX H
          MVI M,08H      :^H
          RET

PATCHND
:END OF BODY OF PATCHES
:
:START OF PATCH INSERTION ROUTINE
:
: * * * * CALCULATE AND INSERT BIOS ADDRESSES
START       LHLD 0001      :get BIOS start address
          MVI L,7FH      :offset to arrow key pointer
          SHLD
          PATCH2+1        :insert into patch
          SHLD
          PATCH3+1
          MVI L,06H      :offset to get console status call
          SHLD LOOP3+2    :insert into patch

:
: * * * * CHECK VALIDITY OF FILENAME
          LXI SP,STACK    :local stack
          LDA FCB+1       :filename given?
          CPI 20H
          JNZ ONEFILE     :yes: ok

:
          MVI C,9
          LXI D,ERR5      : 'NO FILE' message to console
          CALL BDOS
          JMP EXIT

:
ONEFILE     LDA FCB+17     :2 filenames given?
          CPI 20H
          JZ GOODFIL      :no: ok

:
          MVI C,9
          LXI D,ERR6      : 'TWO FILENAME' message to console
          CALL BDOS
          JMP EXIT

```

```

:
GOODFIL MVI C.9
        LXI D.MSG1 :header message to console
        CALL BDOS :and request blink rate

:
RETRY1 MVI C.1
        CALL BDOS :input blink rate (1 digit. 0 to 9)
        CPI 03H :^C ?
        JZ EXIT :yes: abort
        CPI 30H :less than ascii zero?
        JP CHECK1 :no: ok

:
CHERROR MVI C.9
        LXI D.ERR1 :value error message to console
        CALL BDOS
        JMP RETRY1

:
CHECK1 CPI 3AH :greater than ascii 9 ?
        JP CHERROR :yes: error
        SUI 30H :convert to BCD
        INR A :+1
        STA TIMSET+2 :imbed value in patch1

:
        MVI C.0DH :reset disk drives
        CALL BDOS

:
        LXI D.FCB
        MVI C.0FH :try to open ws file
        CALL BDOS
        INR A :FF becomes 0 = error
        JNZ FILEOK :if no error

:
NOFILE MVI C.9
        LXI D.ERR2 : 'FILE NOT FOUND' msg to console
        CALL BDOS
        JMP EXIT

:
: * * * * READ WORDSTAR INTO CORE
:
FILEOK LXI H.1000H :read buffer base adrs
LOOP1 SHLD DMAADRS:save it

:
        MVI A.H
        CPI 0B0H :read buffer overflow (over B000H)
        JNZ NOFLOW :no: ok

:
        MVI C.9
        LXI D.ERR3 : 'OVERFLOW ERROR' msg to console
        CALL BDOS
        JMP EXIT

:
NOFLOW XCHG
        MVI C.1AH :call to set DMA adrs
        CALL BDOS

:
        MVI C.14H
        LXI D.FCB :read a record into read buffer

```

```

CALL BDOS

:
ORA A :end of file?
JNZ INSERT :yes: insert patches

:
LHLD DMAADRS
LXI D.128
DAD D :inc DMA adr by 128 bytes
JMP LOOP1 :read next record

:
: * * * * INSERT DIVERSION FOR PATCH1 (BLINK)
:
INSERT LXI D.0F00H :mod bias (100H = 1000H)
        LXI
        H.DIVERT1 :diversion from ws to patch1
        DAD D :+bias
        DCX H :test for correct version of ws -
        MOV A.M :check instruction before
                :diversion location
        CPI 00
        JZ CHECK2 :same version: ok

:
VERSERR MVI C.9
        LXI D.ERR4 : 'VERSION ERR' msg to console
        CALL BDOS
        JMP EXIT

:
CHECK2 DCX H
        MOV A.M
        CPI 01 :check another byte to be sure
        JNZ VERSERR :if error

:
        INX H
        INX H
        INX H
        LXI B.PATCH1:patch start adrs
        MOV M.C :insert into ws
        INX H
        MOV M.B

:
: * * * * INSERT DIVERSION TO PATCH2
:
        LXI H.INISUB:diversion to patch2
        DAD D :+bias
        MVI M.0C3H :store jmp at inisub
        INX H
        LXI B.PATCH2:patch2 start adrs
        MOV M.C :insert into ws
        INX H
        MOV M.B
        INX H
        MVI M.0C3H :store jmp at unisub = inisub+3
        INX H
        LXI B.PATCH3:patch3 start adrs
        MOV M.C :insert into ws
        INX H
        MOV M.B

```




```

:
: * * * * INSERT BODY OF PATCHES INTO WS FREE PATCH AREA
LXI
H,PATCHSP ;destination adrs
DAD D ;+bias
XCHG
LXI
H,PATCHSP ;source adrs
LXI
B,PATCHND-
PATCHST ;byte count
:byte count above must be 124 (7C hex)
:
DB 0EDH,0B0H;Z80 'LDIR' block move inst
:
: * * * * PREPARE TO WRITE WORDSTAR BACK TO DISK
LXI H,0100H ;reset FCB
SHLD FCB+14
LXI H,0000
SHLD FCB+12
SHLD FCB+32
SHLD FCB+34
:
MVI C,0FH
LXI D,FCB ;open wordstar file
CALL BDOS
INR A ;FF becomes 0 = error
JZ NOFILE
:
LXI H,1000H ;write buffer st adrs
SHLD WRTADRS
XCHG
:
LOOP2 MVI C,1AH ;call to set DMA
CALL BDOS
:
MVI C,15H
LXI D,FCB ;write one record to disk
CALL BDOS
:
LHLD WRTADRS
LXI D,128
DAD D ;inc DMA adr by 128 bytes
SHLD WRTADRS
XCHG
LHLD DMAADRS;if wrtadrs = end of read bfr then all
done
MOV A,L
CMP E
JNZ LOOP2 ;if not equal: continue
MOV A,H
CMP D
JNZ LOOP2 ;if not equal: continue
:
MVI C,10H
LXI D,FCB ;close file
CALL BDOS

```

```

:
MVI C,9
LXI D,MSG2 ;'TERMINATION MSG' to console
CALL BDOS
:
EXIT JMP 0000 ;cp/m warm start entry
:
: * * * * STORAGE AND MESSAGES
:
DMAADRS DW 0 ;read bfr pointer
WRTADRS DW 0 ;write bfr pointer
:
ERR1 DB 08H,'WRONG! ',8,8,8,8,8,8,8,8,'$'
ERR2 DB CR,LF,LF,'ERROR: FILE NOT FOUND,'
DB 'RESTART AND TRY AGAIN! ',CR,LF,'$'
ERR3 DB CR,LF,LF,'ERROR: READ BUFFER OVERFLOW.'
DB 'BAD SOURCE FILE?',CR,LF,'$'
ERR4 DB CR,LF,LF,'ERROR: WORDSTAR FILE CORRUPT OR '
DB 'VERSION IS DIFFERENT', CR,LF,' FROM VERSION
DB 'EXPECTED BY PATCH (SEE ABOVE)',CR,LF,'$'
ERR5 DB 1AH,'WSPATCH REV 1.1',CR,LF
DB 'ERROR: WORDSTAR FILENAME.EXT AND SOURCE '
DB 'DRIVE MUST',CR,LF
DB 'BE SPECIFIED IN COMMAND LINE. - EG: ',CR,LF
DB ' ',1BH,6CH,'WSPATCH B:WS.COM',1BH,6DH
DB ' --TRY AGAIN! ',CR,LF,'$'
ERR6 DB 1AH,'WSPATCH REV 1.1',CR,LF
DB 'ERROR: TWO FILENAMES GIVEN IN COMMAND
LINE.'
DB CR,LF,'SOURCE FILE MUST BE SAME AS
DESTINATION'
DB 'FILE.',CR,LF,' --TRY AGAIN! ',CR,LF,'$'
:
DS 64
STACK
END
. . . . .

```

Surge and RF Protection

by David W. Aukamp

If you're like me, with enough knowledge of electronics to be suspicious as well as inquisitive, \$65.00 or more for commercial surge protection products is \$50.00 too much. You may also be concerned about protection against glitches caused by RF and the cost gets higher. If you know enough about electronics to be disturbed by these prices, you probably know enough to save your money for more complex problems.

First, you can forget about RF protection, because Osborne had the foresight to incorporate an EMI filter into the OS-1. It's located by the power cord entry panel. Along with their ferite beads for additional decoupling, no further RF protection should be necessary.

Protection from power line surges can cost as little as \$2.00 if you are willing to install three metal oxide varistors (MOV's) inside your OS-1. Three are required, and they should be soldered across the power line (black to white) and from each line to ground (black to green & white to green).

If you are a bit shy about opening your OS-1, the next best place to install the MOV's is in a electrical box on the end of a cord into which you plug your Ozzie and other peripherals. If you have ever made up an extension cord and have access to a soldering iron, you can probably do the job easily. The electrical connections are the same as stated above.

MOV's are available from Radio Shack at \$1.95 each and from commercial parts houses for less than a dollar. The Radio Shack part number is 276-570. The GE part number is V130LA10A. The devices are identical, and will clamp voltage spikes to a safe 130V.

David is a member of the Tampa Bay Osborne Group (TBOG), their contact phone is (813) 782-2070. Their meetings are held on the 2nd Tuesday of every month at 7:00 PM at Jefferson High School in Tampa.

Disk Drive Surgery

by David W. Aukamp

On two occasions in the past six months I have found it necessary to disassemble my Osborne to correct mechanical problems with drive A. Although I do not recommend that everyone attempt such repairs, I will describe both the symptoms and their cure. The information may prove valuable to you one of these days.

Problem: The arm latch, found only on the MPI drive (the little finger that assures proper diskette seating), binds such that diskettes are difficult to remove.

Solution: Remove the drive from OS-1 and then remove the cover from the drive. Remove the drive face plate, and with a small file, remove burrs from the arm latch. Be sure to clean the face plate of any dust that may have been created in the process. Replace the face plate, mount the drive cover and install the drive back into the OS-1.

Problem: The hub mechanism on MPI drive binds when disengaging the latch to remove a diskette.

Solution: The upper spindle shaft is spring-loaded, and intended to be self-locating. It is mounted in an enlarged hole, and can be shifted slightly from side to side and front to back. Insert a finger into the drive slot, and gently alter the position of the hub assembly until a suitable location is found. If this does not work, it may be necessary to disassemble the drive to provide better access to the assembly.

In my experience, the above has sufficed for the most part, but I still experience occasional binds. If the problem gets worse, my next step will be to disassemble the drive and the shaft assembly in search of burrs that might impede the self-locating function. I would like to hear from others who have experienced and solved this type of problem in another way.

If "FAST" is too Fast for Your Drives — A Note on the Use of FAST and MAKAUTO2

by Steve Cunningham

I have discovered a problem with the MPI disk speed up routine which is part of MAKAUTO2 found on FOG/UTL.040. According to the notes, this program allows you to create a customized AUTOST.COM file with a sign-on message as well. This program includes the FAST routine or the equivalent by Steven Dyk. The program works beautifully and the disk drives (MPI only) really fly. However on my machine, an O-1 Dbl Den with SCREEN-PAC, a warm boot, control-C, or an X to exit WordStar caused the A-Drive to go into a terrible clacking lock-up state which could only be "repaired" with a RESET.

I decided (guessed) that the speed-up was too fast for my machine, the disk settling delay had been set to zero — I believe. In the clearly documented MAKAUTO2.ASM file I found the command that sets the delay:

```
main: mvi a,0
```

I changed this to:

```
main: mvi a,1
```

and the disk problem was fixed! The disks are still fast and the custom auto starting routine is unaffected. All warm boots and exits from WS are uneventful, as they should be. I think that I set the delay to a longer value than zero, but still dramatically less than the standard O-1 setting. Placing a value of 2 in the mvi statement also works but the disks are slower.

My thanks to Frank Muenmemann, *FOGHORN* May 1984 p33, who gave me a clue about the delay time. I don't know what "intercepting the cold start vector in the BIOS jump table" means; but it sounds dirty . . .

I hope this note helps others with the same problem; possibly someone can explain the problem, and what I really did in fixing it. A message on FOG RCP/M #3 will reach me quickly.

Steve is a member of FOG and PHROG (Philadelphia Region Osborne Group, an Affiliated Member Organization. Their meetings are listed in the *CALENDAR* section.

Double Your Disk Storage

by Wally Matthews

For the past two years I've been using both sides of my disks without any difficulties. I have had more new disk glitches on the front sides than on the back! The warning not to use the back side is disk salesmen propaganda; you can use both sides. Don't worry about reversing the direction of rotation loosening trapped dirt, it doesn't happen. Of course, you MUST keep all your disks clean and away from magnetic fields.



First, you buy a new regular (1/4") hole punch that has a plastic foot to catch the punch-outs, to protect the oxidized disk surfaces, and to allow you to look through to see where you're making a hole. Mine cost \$2.19 plus tax from my local stationary store. Check it out to make sure it cuts clean holes and doesn't leave burrs on the hole edges.

Second, you make a business card template measuring from the upper right-hand corner of the disk envelope on the front DOWN the right-hand side to the center of the drive hole. Then measure the distance LEFT to the center of the drive hole. Now mark the location of the drive-hole center on the card, punch it out, and compare it to the disk envelope hole location. They should match almost exactly.

Now, using the same right-hand front edge measure down to the center of the write-protect notch and mark the card there, too. Punch out a half-circle notch (or a little less) centered on your notch mark. Again compare your notch with the envelope's.

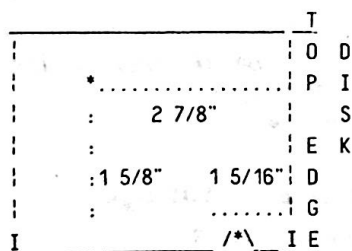
Third, select a disk without anything written on it. Place your card at the top, right-hand corner front and check to make sure the hole and notch match the envelope's. If they do, flip the card over and place it on the LEFT front and top edge. Now mark the center of the hole with a No. 2 pencil and mark the notch, too.

Fourth, (WARNING: BE VERY CAREFUL) holding the disk's side edges, put your thumb into the hub hole pushing the disk gently toward the left edge of the envelope. Using your other thumb under the topside, pull the envelope away from the disk at the hub. Now, insert the punch between the envelope and disk with a slight pressure upward on the envelope. Center the punch over your hole mark and punch out the new envelope hole. Also, punch out the left-side notch.

Fifth, Flip the disk over and repeat the operation on the rear right-side. That's it.

Check your work by rotating the disk gently until the index hole in the disk is centered and you can see light through your holes. Now, format both sides and name them. For example, use **Save 0 B:-001B** to name the B side of disk 001.

Here are the business card dimensions I used:



RIGHT EDGE
FRONT SIDE OF DISK

• • • • •

Installation Procedure for Osborne-1 Fan Assembly

by John Wyatt

WARNING

**THIS WORK SHOULD BE DONE BY
A QUALIFIED TECHNICIAN ONLY !**

**FAILURE TO FOLLOW INSTRUCTIONS PROPERLY MAY RESULT IN
SERIOUS BODILY INJURY OR DAMAGE TO YOUR SYSTEM AND
MEDIA.**

CAUTION

**DANGER: HIGH VOLTAGE:
UNPLUG UNIT BEFORE PROCEEDING !**

The interior of the case is coated with a special metallic paint which reduces radio frequency interference. Avoid scratching or damaging in any way this coating.

IMPORTANT NOTE:

This and any other changes to your originally supplied hardware are considered by Xerox Corporation to void any warranty on your system. Before proceeding with any changes, we suggest you contact Xerox Americare for information about your liability. All changes and/or modifications are strictly the users responsibility.

Osborne Computer Corporation will not be responsible for the personal injury or system damage incurred by performing this system alteration.

REQUIRED TOOLS AND EQUIPMENT

- 1) No. 2 Phillips screwdriver, 6in.-9in. length

CASE DISASSEMBLY

- 1) Disconnect the computer from any power source and detach the power cord.
- 2) Disconnect the keyboard cable from the front bezel by spreading the latches on the keyboard connector.
- 3) Disconnect any external cables (RS-232, modem, external video, etc.).
- 4) Remove the video contrast and brightness knobs by carefully pulling them from their shafts. (NOTE: Prying the knobs from behind may scratch the bezel.)
- 5) Remove the six (6) Phillips screws surrounding the bezel.

NOTE: All screws or small parts removed from the unit should be stored together in an area where they may not be misplaced.

- 6) Grasp the bezel near the case latches and pull it straight forward until it is free.
- 7) Turn the unit upside-down and remove the five (5) Phillips screws holding both halves of the case together.
- 8) Lift the bottom half of the case straight up and set it aside, out of the way.
- 9) Grasp the handle assembly and lift it straight up and out of the top case housing.
- 10) Slide the new fan-handle assembly into the slot of the top

case half. Be sure that the arrow on the fan door is pointing down, so that the door will slide up when the case is turned over.

- 11) There are three keyed power receptacles on the power supply, two of which are in use, plug the power connector into this unused receptacle. NOTE the key position.

NOTE: If your system has the 80 column option there will not be an open receptacle on the power supply. You must then remove the protection connector from the middle of the 80 column power harness. Now plug the fan into the 80 column power harness, note the key position.

- 12) Place the bottom of the case over the unit and lower it in place. Be sure the case is seated properly on the chassis mounts and that the fan and power pocket are in place. Tighten screws.
- 13) Turn the case over and place it so that the open front is facing you.
- 14) Push the keyboard connector latches together into the closed position so the latches will not be in the way of the bezel.
- 15) Gently place the front bezel into the case, be sure that it seats properly all around and particularly under the latches.
- 16) Replace the six (6) Phillips screws in the bezel.
- 17) Push the two brightness and contrast knobs onto the shafts.
- 18) Spread the keyboard connector latches and reconnect the keyboard cable.
- 19) Reconnect the power cord to the unit and plug it into the power source.

The system should now be ready to use and the time has come for you to see the fruit of your labors. Turn on the system and lift the fan door. You should be able to hear the fan running. If it is not running, turn off the system and open the case so you can check the power harness configuration.

Quiet Fan for the Executive

by John Wyatt

Some of you may have noticed that the fan in your Osborne Executive does a good job of keeping the system cool and therefore more error free. You may have also noticed that though it works like a champ, it sounds like a train!

CAUTION: THIS WORK SHOULD BE DONE BY A QUALIFIED TECHNICIAN ONLY. OSBORNE COMPUTER CORPORATION WILL NOT ACCEPT RESPONSIBILITY FOR DAMAGE OR PERSONAL INJURY INCURRED PERFORMING THIS ALTERATION.

The reasons for the noise level are few and simple, and fortunately so are the alterations needed to make it a bit more tolerable to the ear. The first order of business is that of collecting the proper tools, which thankfully are few. **NOTE:**

- 1) A phillips screwdriver with at least a 7 inch shaft.

- 2) A pair of wire cutters and strippers. (or one of each)
- 3) A pick or something with a strong tapered point.
- 4) A bit of electrical tape. (about 3 inches will do)
- 5) A soldering iron and some solder.

Now you will also need a 33 ohm resistor, 1/4 or 1/2 watt, to put in line with the fan. You can pick these up at Radio Shack. **NOTE:** If you use the computer in a warmer climate or area, the resistor value should be decreased to 20 ohms to increase the thermal air flow factor.

NOW WE ARE READY TO BEGIN!! SOMEONE GET THE ANESTHESIOLOGIST!!

CAUTION: DANGER: HIGH VOLTAGE: UNPLUG UNIT BEFORE PROCEEDING!!

Make sure the unit is unplugged from the AC outlet. Then disconnect the keyboard and put it aside. Pull the BRT and CONTR knobs off.

NOTE: If you pry the knobs from behind, you may scratch the front bezel.

Use the phillips screwdriver to remove the five screws from the bezel. Now pull the bezel straight out and set it aside.

Turn the unit upside-down with the screen facing you and loosen the five screws on the case bottom, then lift the case bottom off. **BE CAREFUL.** If you turn the case over the screws will fall out.

Lift the fan assembly up out of the slot and disconnect it from the drive power harness. Notice there are two sets of wires. The blue and red from the fan, and the red and orange or yellow from the power connection. These two sets of wires come together in one connector with a loop-back plug.

Pull the loop-back plug off the connector. Now using the pick or other tapered tool push down on the tabs in the slot above the red and orange pair and pull them from the connector and set them aside. Remove the red and blue pair from the connector and move them over one space so that they occupy the center two slots of the connector. **BE SURE THE ORIENTATION REMAINS THE SAME.**

Use your wire cutters and cut the blue wire about halfway down, then use your wire strippers to remove about 1/4 inch of the insulation from both sides of the cut wire.

Cut the wire on both ends of the 47 ohm resistor so that it is about 1/4 inch long on either side. Turn on your soldering iron and wait a few minutes for it to get hot. Now that the iron is hot melt a little solder onto both ends of the blue wire and on both ends of the resistor. Place one end of the resistor together with one end of the blue wire then add a little solder to join them. They must be held together until they cool a bit. Now repeat this for the other side.

Once you have the resistor soldered in place then wrap the connection with electrical tape. This will prevent it from grounding to the chassis. **CAUTION: All exposed parts of the resistor and wire must be covered by electrical tape. Failure to do so can cause serious damage to your computer.**

O.K. Time to test it. Plug the fan into the connector, note that the connector is keyed on one side to lock into place. Slide it



into the slot at the back of the case. Be sure the fan door is pointing down. Now plug the system in and push the on/off switch, the fan now should begin running.

If the fan fails to turn on then turn off the system and pull the fan out again. Check for loose or broken solder connections or change the red and blue wires around in the connector.

Doing the opening procedure in the reverse order will allow you to put the system back together and set it up for use.

DONE AT LAST!!

This document is not to be used as a source of technical information about the Osborne Executive computer cooling and environment system.

IMPORTANT NOTE: ANY CHANGE YOU MAKE TO THE HARDWARE MAY VOID YOUR WARRANTY. CHECK YOUR WARRANTY FIRST! ALL CHANGES AND/OR MODIFICATIONS ARE STRICTLY THE USERS RESPONSIBILITY.



How to Sort 80K & 88K

Database on a 90K Disk System

by John Armstrong

1. Label a clean disk "NEWFILE.DBF" and place it in drive B.
2. Place CP/M System disk in drive A ↵
Press ESC key for CP/M.
A) **COPY** to FORMAT B disk.
A) **SYSGEN** to install CP/M onto B disk system tracks.
A) **PIP** ↵ then remove CP/M disk leaving PIP asterisk * on the screen.
3. Place dBASE II disk into drive A and PIP these four files onto B disk.

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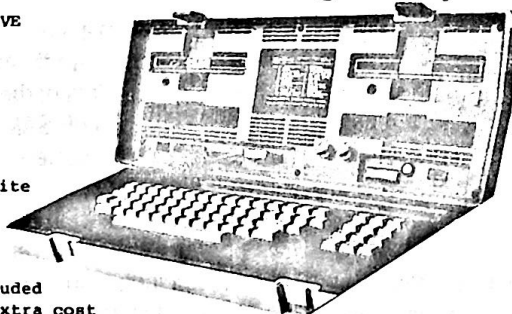
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*B:=A:DBASESRT.OVR[V] ↵
 *B:=A:DBASEMAI.OVR[V] ↵
 *B:=A:DBASEMSG.COM[V] ↵
 *B:=A:DBASE.COM[V] ↵

(PIP verification [V] is optional) Remove dBASE II disk from drive A.

4. Relocate "NEWFILE.DBF" to drive A and place "OLDFILE.DBF" into drive B.

5. Push RESET button ↵

A) DBASE ↵ and enter date ↵

.USE "B:OLDFILE" ↵

.DELETE FILE DBASE.COM ↵

.DELETE FILE DBASEMSG.COM ↵

6. Omit step #6 if database is 80K or less. If more, see below.

7. .SORT ON "FIELDNAME" TO "A:NEWFILE" ↵

Don't panic if both drives stop. Just wait. The sorting process takes 17.5 minutes for 80K. Ignore funny characters appearing on the screen at end of 80K sort. For 81K see #8.

8. Omit step #8 if database is 80K or less.

9. Omit step #9 if database is 80K or less.

10 USE "A:NEWFILE: ↵

.LIST ↵.....AH-HA! PAYDIRT!

quit ↵ Again ignore any funny characters on the CRT.

FOR 81K TO 88K DATABASE INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING STEPS

6. .DELETE FILE DBASEMAI.OVR ↵ for 81K to 88K databases only.

7. As #7 above.

8. At end of 81K to 88K sort, scrambled data will list out on the screen. Push the RESET button to stop. Remove "OLDFILE.DBF" from drive B.

9. Place dBASE II diskette into drive B (Yes! Drive B) ↵

A) B: ↵

B) DBASE ↵ date? ↵

10. As #10 above.

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Please let FOG know of any difficulties encountered. Send all details, in writing, to the FOG office at P. O. Box 3474, Daly City, CA, 94015-0474, U. S. A. We can't promise a solution, but we will try to help.

All articles contained in these pages are the views on the authors. Publication does not necessarily indicate endorsement by FOG, the FOGHORN, or any of the officers.

EXECUTIVE

Executive Notes

October 1984

by Jim Switz

URGENT NOTICE!! Avoid using the NSWP207 utility, on - FOG/EX1.019! This program has bugs, including occasional erasure of ALL files when using the D(etele) command, and at least one other nasty: when I unsqueezed a file a couple of weeks ago, NSWP207 unsqueezed and wrote the file onto the directory tracks of my new hard disk! Old-time CP/M hackers will immediately realize the implications of this, but for you novices, this little, tiny bug wiped out over 3 megabytes of files, and caused me about 6 hours of time to recover from the problem (Yes, I was intelligent enough for once to have backups (I TOLD you it was a good idea to back up your stuff; please take heed from my experience!). Use NSWP205 on - FOG/EX1.017 instead; this version appears to be bulletproof (it seems to be a good idea to use the Tag and Mass copy functions instead of the Copy function, even for one file, however). Sorry about all this, but it's a fairly subtle problem; previous versions worked OK on these functions, and I didn't catch the bug until after release. Do your friends a favor and tell them, too. By the way, this warning applies to Osborne 1 users as well!

This month, as you may have noticed, there are no new disks released into the Executive library. I had the best of intentions to release MEX, a new modem program, but it seems MEX has some bugs. After spending several hours, it seemed to be working fine performing the ordinary functions of modem software, but unfortunately it let me down. When I tried to create and save a phone number list, all was well until I tried to use the list for dialing. It seems that MEX 1.1 likes to crash instead of dialing from a number list. As other bugs may be lurking, I've decided to hold off on the release of MEX until I can get (or maybe make) a working version. Sorry, but these things happen sometimes.

Just before I sat down to write this column, I received several new submissions for the library. As I have not had time to check or screen them to make sure they're Executive-specific, they won't be ready until next time. A reminder, please: submit only Exec-specific software to me; all else should go to the appropriate librarian for each section of the FOG library (see the last couple of FOGHORNS for details). I will sort and forward non- Executive submissions, but this will add considerably to the delay in getting your submissions published.

cont. on page 73

HOW WILL YOU REPLACE A BROKEN KEYBOARD?

LIMITED QUANTITY:

TWO TYPES MADE:

Look inside your keyboard case. If your cable is attached on the corner nearest the escape key, you have an unrepairable FTM (membrane) keyboard. Typical failures include:

- ★ "Stiff" keys - won't always enter
- ★ Full Col. [i.e. keys R-F-V] failure
- ★ Full Row [i.e. Q-W-E-R-T etc.] failure
- ★ CAPS LOCK pops up accidentally

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cont. from page 71

A file placed into the library last month, KEYS.COM on - FOG/EX1.019, seems to be causing some confusion. The program is designed to print out the assignments of the 10 function keys, but may appear to be not working. The reason for this is that KEYS first checks to see if any printer ports are assigned; if there is an active port, it sends the data through the printer port, regardless of whether there is a printer there or not! If you use your SETUP program (from the disks supplied with your Executive) to set both printer ports to "NO DEVICE", KEYS will then print the key assignments to the screen. I apologize for neglecting to mention this fact when the disk was first released. Since the source code was included, KEYS should be able to be patched to print to screen only, if you desire.

Possibly the biggest outstanding bug with the Executive at this time is the tendency for the Exec to "overscan" when using an external monitor; that is, to display characters off the left and/or right edges of the screen. This occurs on some, but not all monitors. USI's are a case in point, but the Sampo I'm using in my office does a beautiful job, with no overscan. This problem has been pointed out to OCC, but with lots of other things to work on, it may take a while to solve. If an enterprising FOGger with some knowledge of video display technology (and access to the Executive Technical Manual) would care to tackle the problem, I'm sure we'd all appreciate it. I don't think it would be a big deal to repair, it's just that the time to debug it hasn't been spent.

Speaking of the Tech Manual, I've had one for just over a month, and my opinion is that it's worth the money if you're one of us inveterate hackers who like to muck about inside your computer. It's most definitely not a service manual, but there is enough information there to understand the machine well enough to help diagnose things. The ROM and BIOS listings are included for the \$125 price, as well as separate sections on hardware and software aspects of the machine. It's about 4 inches thick in five sections; quite a package and much better than what was called the Osborne 1 "Technical Manual". Recommended if you're curious about your Exec.

That's about it for this time around. See you next month!

Micro to Mini

by Larry Easter

Notes on using the OSBORNE EXECUTIVE utilities to communicate with a mini computer.

I have used the following procedure to exchange ASCII files between an EXECUTIVE and a PRIME model 300 mini computer over a telephone line. Some modification in device assignments and procedures will be required for communication with other makes of mini or main frame computers. The system may also work for communicating with other micro computers although I have not yet used it for that purpose.

1. Place the CP/M Plus Advanced Utilities Disk in drive A. Following the A> prompt, type:

A) **DEVICE MODEM[300]** ↵

This will assign a baud rate of 300 to the MODEM port on the EXECUTIVE. If you are using another baud rate, type in the appropriate rate.

2. Next, type:

A) **DEVICE AUXIN: = CRT MODEM** ↵

This assigns both the modem and the screen so information coming from the mini computer can be passed to both the memory of the EXECUTIVE and to the CRT screen.

3. Now type:

A) **DEVICE AUXOUT: = MODEM** ↵

This allows you to send information from the EXECUTIVE to the mini.

The device assignments should now look like this:

```
CONIN: = CRT
CONOUT: = CRT
AUXIN: = CRT MODEM
AUXOUT: = MODEM
LST: = CEN
```

4. Switch from the advanced utilities disk to the system disk.

Now, set up several function keys to make it easier to switch between sending and receiving. Use the EXECUTIVE SETUP program to do this step. If you have not used SETUP refer to page 70 of *Volume 1* of the user's guides. Here is the function key setup which I use:

KEY FUNCTION

```
1  AUX: = CON: ↵
2  ^Z AUX: = CON: ↵
3  ^Z CON: = AUX: ↵
4
5  ^Z AUX: = B:filename
6  ^Z B:filename = AUX: ↵
7
8
9
0  LOGIN L.EASTER ^A^B^C
```

Now save the key assignments and at the same time you will also be saving the device assignments. In the future, just booting the system disk will automatically do the proper device assignments and setup the function keys.

5. At this point I dial-up the PRIME. When I get the carrier signal I run the PIP utility by typing:

A) **PIP** ↵

6. When you get the PIP prompt '*', hold the CTRL key down and press function key #1 (^1). This will allow you to send to the PRIME. Press the ↵ key to clear the PRIME for receiving and then press ^3 to see what it sends back. The RETURN message is typed on the EXECUTIVE screen.

The PRIME operating system will send some kind of message and when it is ready to receive it sends an operating system prompt, either:

cont. on page 75

THE SMALL BUSINESS

PROBLEM

Remember when you originally introduced a personal computer into your office?

No-one was enthusiastic.

But now everyone is enthusiastic . . . too enthusiastic. Your system is too small.

What's worse, you haven't anywhere near realized a return on your investment yet.

You spent time and money installing and integrating the software into your business. You don't want to start over.

Employees are suggesting excellent uses for the computer but can't get CPU or printer time to put these ideas into effect.

Your data base is established and just becoming useful. New hardware usually means starting over again.

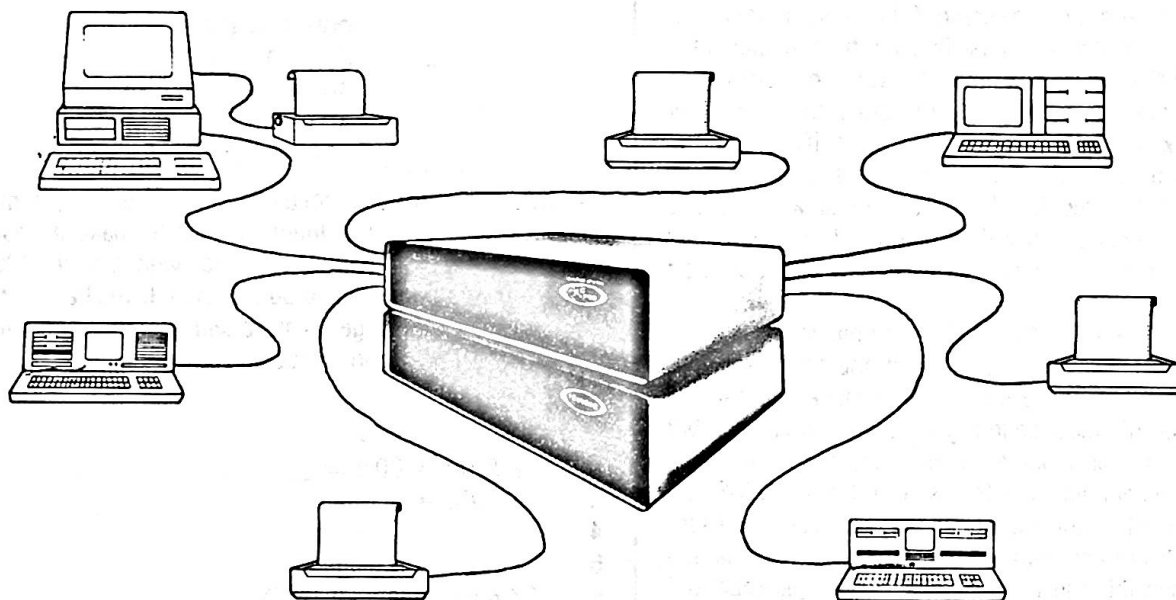
SOLUTION

The solution is the TRANTOR® WEB.™

It transforms one to four isolated CP/M personal computers into a multi-user system with shared files, expanded printer capabilities, system security, electronic mail and much more!

Because the WEB and a hard disk act like an extension to your present CP/M system you can run your existing software using your existing data bases.

The WEB supports multiple users. Your inventory data can be read at the order desk, totaled at the accounting desk, and modified at the receiving dock! All at the same time - no swapping floppies or moving to another location to use that data.



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The WEB uses 32 Kbytes of its internal Ram as a cache to speed up disk I/O.

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The WEB has a real time clock that can be set and polled by application programs using simple BDOS calls.

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The WEB is the only network of its class that allows you to inexpensively connect CP/M computers of different makes to the same hard disk and printer. You can add any of the computers supported by TRANTOR to your WEB to meet your growing needs.

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cont. from page 73
OK, or ER!

7. When the PRIME operating system prompt appears, press function key 0 while holding down the CTRL key (^0). This sends the login information to the PRIME.
8. To make sure you have been accepted by the PRIME type ^3 again and wait for the sign-on message from the PRIME.
9. From this point on, to send to the PRIME just type ^2 and the message you want to send. For example, to look at a file which was previously stored on the PRIME, type:

OK,SLIST filename ↵

Then type ^3 and the PRIME will transmit the contents of the file and it will appear on the EXECUTIVE screen.

10. If want to send a file which is stored on disk B of the EXECUTIVE first run the PRIME text editor by typing ^2 so you can send. Then type ED followed by ↵. This puts you in contact with the input mode of the editor. Confirm this by typing ^3 to receive.

When the PRIME sends back the INPUT message to indicate it is ready to receive type ^5 which was previously setup so it will transmit the file.

When the transmission is completed, save the file on the PRIME.

11. To receive a file from the PRIME, first make sure you are in touch with the PRIME operating system and have been given either the OK, or the ER! prompts.

Then type the ^2 key and send the following command:

SLIST filename ↵

Next, type the ^6 key. The PRIME will send the file and it will be stored in the memory of the EXECUTIVE. When the entire file has been sent type ^Z and whatever has been stored in the EXECUTIVE memory will be stored on the correct diskette.

12. When I have completed everything I want to do I logout by typing ^2 followed by LO ↵. Then I confirm the logout by typing ^3 so I can receive the final message from the PRIME.

This seems like a very complicated procedure, but it is really easy to use. A little practice and all goes rather smoothly.

.....

Some Comments and a Beginners

Review of PASCAL MT/+

by Steve Hofmann

As stated in the title, I'd like to open with some comments and praise for the Osborne Executive. Secondly, I'd like to give a brief introduction to an incredible version of the PASCAL programming language which is available for the EXEC!

This 26 lb. package of wire, chips, and other assorted electronic goodies has served as my introduction to the microcomputer world. I began looking for a computer early in 1983 but was un-impressed by most of the machines on the market. The one machine which impressed me enough to start a search for more dollars was the good old O1. However, the rumors of a "new OZZY" prompted me to wait until the end of SEPT '83 to buy the "new OZZY", the EXEC. When I heard of the infamous CHAPTER 11, I rushed out to buy the EXEC before they all disappeared since I was . . . well . . . in love with the machine. Despite all the risks, the glamorous (and ugly) competition, the threat of dwindling software, and the difficulty explaining why I purchased an "Edsel", I had to have an EXEC!

Since the day I plunked down my \$1995 (plus \$2000 for: an FX 100, WordPac, SpellGuard, MicroLink, StartPac, a cable, a case, 20 diskettes, 2 boxes of paper, tax, and to wrap it up, an 18 month service contract), I have never been disappointed and always been amazed at the EXEC's capabilities. It has been a teacher, companion at home and work, and generally improved every aspect of my life (except possibly the amount of sleep I get). I have learned the rudiments of BASIC programming, PASCAL programming, WordStar, Personal Pearl, CP/M, SuperCalc, p-System, Dbase II, and written a technical book on flying training! Additionally, the "fever" prompted me to take OZZY to college to act as my personal BASIC and PASCAL terminal.

My attendance at college lead the way to an increased demand for software, entrance into FOG, and finally to this . . . telling others about the virtues of the Osborne product. I have assembled a moderate software library including one program which deserves some mention and has so amazed me that I found the motivation to squeeze these comments into my schedule. That program is PASCAL MT/+ from Digital Research.

PASCAL MT/+, A true PLUS for the CP/M and Osborne user

My return to college to study programming languages ran squarely into some "fruity" (pardon the pun) computers which used the p-System to run their PASCAL Compiler. This was fine with me until I found it nearly impossible to find a compiler, linker, and library which would run with the Osborne supplied p-System. This left me with two options, get indigestion from using the other computer system or play detective finding a more palatable option. The clues were scarce, but finally led me to technical assistance (at Digital Research) who promised the long elusive COMPATIBILITY! They provided the name of an East Coast dealer (WESTICO) who could supply AN OSBORNE DOUBLE DENSITY DOWNLOAD [of PASCAL MT+]! Was the case solved or had I just paid \$350 for some small square Frisbee's?

The day arrived, a box far too small for the price was waiting on the doorstep. I think I left the door open and proceeded straight to the OZZY room (previously the office) to make the copies and bury the originals. Would it work? The door remained open for hours as I endeavored to unravel the mysteries. Where were the p-System prompts? What about the root



structure of the p-System? What about the p-System editor I had just mastered on the "fruity" companion? How in the world do you make this stuff work. I finally resorted to THE BOOK only to find I would have to use such things as; WordStar to write/edit, PIP to move the programs, DIR to find them . . . this must be a joke, I don't have to master another operating system, editor, etc.

Well it was not a joke, instead it was a blessing too large to describe. This version of PASCAL was engineered to work in concert with the CP/M PLUS operating system at the heart of my EXECUTIVE! Every free moment in the next few weeks was spent learning and understanding this new marvel. The greatest discovery was that this implementation is so compatible with the system that it ACTUALLY CREATES STAND ALONE, RUN ALONE .COM FILES! That's what I said! For example, say I wrote a sample program (SAMPLE.PAS) (with WS.COM), compiled it (with MTPLUS.COM), linked it (with LINKMT.COM), the result would be SAMPLE.COM! This final product can be run on the EXEC (or other CP/M computer) by simply entering SAMPLE <RET> at the A> prompt! Suddenly the value of the other systems seemed to shrink at this monumental discovery.

OK. I know it sounds too good to be true. But the only shortcoming found so far is the formidable manual from Digital Research. It gets you started with a few short examples but then progresses with exponentially increasing difficulty. It is well organized but tends to frighten the novice (like me) with the brevity of description and lack of the "easy tutorials" we first time users found in the EXEC manuals. But not to worry, we all have to grow up sometime and face THE MANUAL, just be prepared to read it more than one time for complete understanding!

Some of the other attributes of this delightful PASCAL implementation are:

- the portability of the finished programs, I've transferred the finished programs to a KAYPRO II operating on CP/M 2.2 and run it with NO problems. (Other transfers will be attempted soon.)
- the speed with which the programs run, a simple loop to print "HI YOU'ALL" to the screen 100 times will finish running before the accessed disk stops running!
- the availability of options to both the compiler and linker phase are so extensive that I will need at least 3-4 more months to try them all.
- ETC!

Well the word is out now. I need to get back to learning more about MTPLUS so I can share some of the more technical aspects with my fellow FOGgies next month. Despite the availability (now) of PASCAL on the EXEC library, you may want to look into MTPLUS. Remembering that I'm not an advanced computer programmer, I'll try to contribute the most noteworthy comments on this program as I learn it. Also I'd like to hear from others using the MTPLUS system — or am I the only user with this pleasure?

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? Possible BIOS ERROR Fix ?

by Steve Hofmann

In the March *FOGHORN* Jim Switz points out a problem with the EXEC printer interface which causes the message;

BIOS error device PRNTR [or CENTR] not ready, unassign this device [Y or N]

to be output whenever the print buffer reaches capacity. I also encountered this problem with some slightly different variations including:

- the error would only occur during the first print attempt.
- it would not re-occur until the printer was switched off and back on again or the system was re-booted.
- after answering the prompt with "N" the print would continue without further aggravation.

The temporary nature of this bug may have been related to the combination of hardware being used with the EXEC (an EPSON FX 100 with a Centronics or parallel interface). However, the devices assigned to the other ports seemed to have no effect on whether the error occurred! I decided to live with the problem assuming that it was a matter of finding the proper installation routine for the FX-100.

Then I stumbled across a fix which has worked with the EPSON/ parallel configuration and all the software currently used with my EXEC.

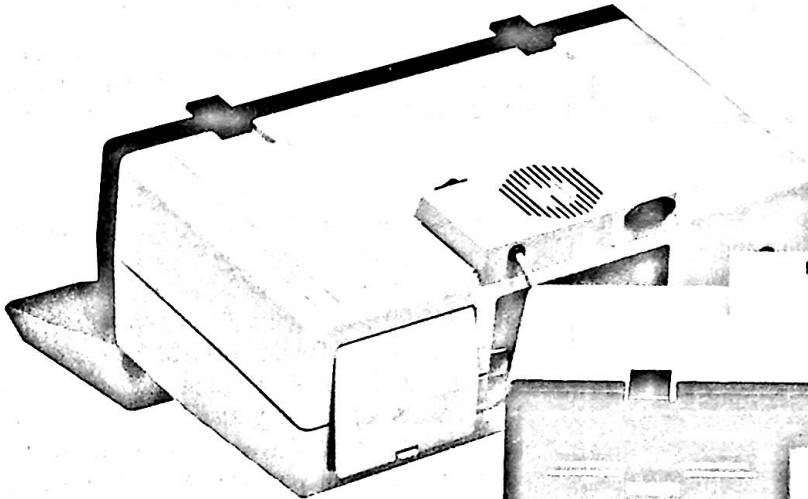
1. Find the ASCII code(s) required by your printer as in initialization code (<ESC> @ for the EPSON);
2. Run the SETUP program and configure the printer port as desired including the printer initialization code as the first entry in your initialization string;
3. Save the configuration to a test disc (say a copy of WordStar) and do a trial print.

It is important to remember to either re-boot the computer with the disc to which you saved the new SETUP program or to also save the changes to both the disc and the memory. (The old SETUP will be retained in memory until you save a new one or re-boot the new one.)

This technique has effectively eliminated all my difficulties using the parallel port (despite the devices assigned to other ports), but I have not had an opportunity to test it with a serial printer. Best bet is to just give it a try! If the fix works for you then you can enter the SETUP program and simply save it to all your program disks which contain a print routine. The code(s) should then be automatically sent to the printer each time a print command (P, ^P, M, PRINT, etc) is issued by a program.

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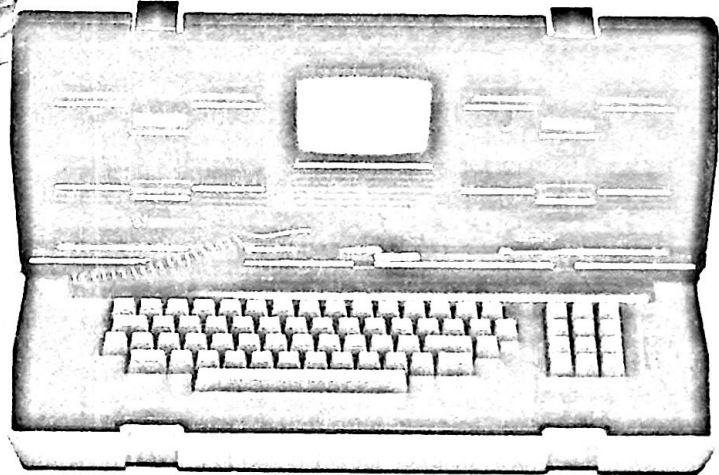
"My OSCOOL FAN has eliminated those flaky DBOS errors; it's compact, and very quiet."

Byron Davies, member SFFOG

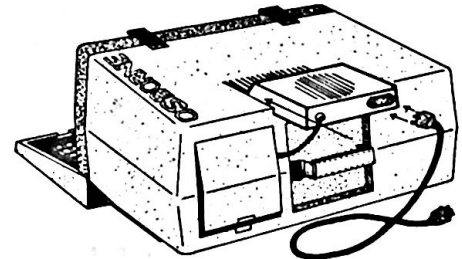
"The OSCOOL FAN does everything it promises - even with the ram disk in constant operation, it never overheats...I've never been more satisfied with a product!"

Ron Brown, Great Falls, MT

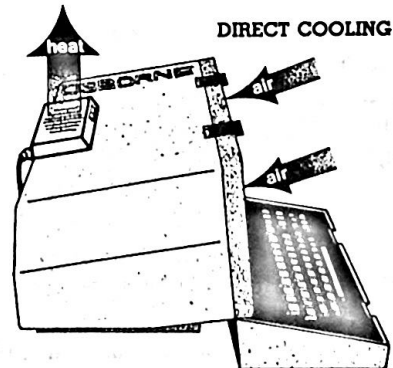
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FOG MEMBER ANNOUNCEMENTS

Osborne 1 (blue case) For Sale

Double density, dBASE II, SuperCalc 2, spelling, parallel cable and all copies of the Portable Computer including June/July '82 included. Have had no problems and it is clean. \$550. Coolin Gilboy, (415) 331-8379.

Osborne 1 SD

Tan case, Microline 82A printer, Signalman 300 baud modem. \$750 or best offer. Contact:

Wally Wilson
P.O. Box 122
Tioga, PA 19646
717-835-5667

Osborne 1 Tan case, with double density and 80 column screen. It has the built-in Osborne modem with myterm software along with assorted software including original package and most current, never used, WordStar with MailMerge and SpellStar (professional).

In addition, there is a Zenith monitor and C. Itoh matrix printer. I would like to sell the package for \$1,350 or \$1,000 for the Osborne with software alone.

Peter Brandenburg
58 Indian Hill Road
Mt. Kisco, New York 10549
(914) 241-0066

Executive For Sale

With Bios Enhancement, asking \$1,300. Contact Jim Hartley at (415) 657-4334.

Osborne Executive for sale

Excellent condition with extra software, auxiliary cooling fan, surge suppressor with Mannesmann Tally, Spirit 80 printer, cable, and extra ribbons. Will pay postage. Asking \$1600.

dBASE II FOR SALE

New, unused, unopened, unregistered, dBASE II database management system for Osborne 1. Includes documentation, registration forms, tutorial disks, and ZIP. The price is \$200. If interested call me (Paul Allen) at (815) 723-7826 in Joliet, Illinois.

Attention

J.G. Communications has moved to:
Roy, Utah, 84067
P.O. Box 278

Ink-A-New went out of business in June, 1984. Manufacturing has ceased and kits are no longer being shipped. Product announcement materials are no longer being distributed.

FOR SALE

I have four parallel printer cables for the 0-1 with Centronics connectors on the printer end for sale at \$20.00 each. I also have two OSMOD external monitor adaptors for sale at \$13.00 each. Ken Mills, 56 White Pine Ct., California, Maryland, 20619. **DON'T SEND MONEY!!** I will respond only to the first four (4) persons requesting the items and make arrangements for delivery and payment. All other inquiries will go unanswered. Otherwise I could spend more money responding to requests than I am getting for the parts.

FUND RAISER

Copper Mountain College has IBC Systems 40 w/two 8" drives, ADDs Regent 25 terminal, and TI Omni 800 printer. Complete, to best offer. Friends of CMC, c/o High-desert Osborne Group, 6808 Estrella Ave., Twentynine Palms, CA. 92277-2928

October 6 — San Jose, CA: Computer Swap America offers another of its one day personal computing bargain shows at the Santa Clara County Fairgrounds. New and used computer hardware and software, components, accessories and more are available from numerous vendors in an informal indoor setting. Open from 10 AM to 6 PM. General Admission is \$5. For more information phone (415) 366-9162 or write Computer Swap America, Inc., P.O. Box 620107, Woodside, CA 94062.

CORRECTION

CORRECTION

Error in FOG FONES

The September *FOGHORN* contained an error in the listing for system # 3. The FOG member to whom that phone number belongs had the misfortune to be talking to me at the time I was preparing the listing for typesetting and I entered his phone rather than the correct number. Please discard that list and use the list found in this month's *FOG FONES*.

— Gale Rhoades

CORRECTION

Error in Trantor Advertisement

The September *FOGHORN* contained an old copy of the Trantor advertisement reflecting their old prices. Please check the Trantor ads this month for current prices. We apologize for the confusion.

cont. from page 1

SYSTEM NOTES

- 61 **WS Installation: Osborne /WordStar /NEC 8023A/C (or N) (Greek-Scientific Capability Featured** by H. Bradt
Correcting errors contained in the first printing of this article.
- 63 **A Blinking Cursor for WordStar 3.3 ...** by Charles Zacky
A program which will allow you to patch for several different versions of the CP/M system.
- 66 **Surge and RF Protection** by David W. Aukamp
A couple of suggestions before you spend your money.
- 67 **Disk Drive Surgery** by David W. Aukamp
A couple of repair tricks for troubled disks.
- 67 **If "FAST" is too Fast for Your Drives — A Note on the Use of FAST and MAKAUTO 2** by Steve Cunningham
Solution to a problem with MAKAUTO2.
- 67 **Double Your Disk Storage** by Wally Matthews
More notes on floppies.
- 68 **Installation Procedure for Osborne-1 Fan Assembly** by John Wyatt
A how-to for installing the Executive fan in your Osborne 1. Be sure to read all the warnings before starting.

- 69 **Quiet Fan for the Executive** by John Wyatt
For those with a noisy fan on the Executive, be sure to read the warnings before starting.

dBASE II

- 70 **How to Sort 80K & 88K Database on a 90K Disk System** by John Armstrong
Written for the single density owners, this routine should work for others whose files are too big for their disks.

EXECUTIVE

- 71 **Executive Notes October 1984** by Jim Switz
A warning about NSWP207 for FOG/EX1.019 with collected notes.
- 73 **Micro to Mini** by Larry Easter
How to use the Executive to communicate with a mini computer.
- 75 **Some Comments and a Beginners Review of PASCAL MT/+** by Steve Hofmann
A very happy Executive owner relates his beginning experiences with PASCAL.
- 76 **? Possible BIOS ERROR Fix ?** by Steve Hofmann
A patch to try before you buy the new enhanced BIOS.

REGULAR FEATURES

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FOG MEMBER MERCHANDISE

With the introduction of Media Master from DG/Systems, most members do not need the more expensive UNIFORM. While the two programs are similar in purpose, there are some important differences. Media Master will work on the Executive, UNIFORM will not. UNIFORM is \$40.00 more expensive than Media Master.

If you are interested primarily in transferring data files from a non-CP/M 2.2 formatted disk, there is no difference in the method used by both programs. ONLY if you own a Morrow, KayPro, or double density Osborne 1 and want to edit a large volume of files on a disk formatted by another CP/M 2.2 system should you consider purchasing UNIFORM. This is because UNIFORM will allow your B: drive to emulate the drive of the other system. You can then use WordStar, NSWEEP, PIP, etc. on the foreign disk.

FOG will continue to carry UNIFORM because most dealers will not carry this software. You should order Media Master directly from DG/Systems.

SmartKey2 and SmartPrint2 are still available and we anticipate no difficulty in obtaining these. We now have a new version of both which do work on the Executive. If you have previously purchased these programs for your Executive, please return the complete package for a full refund or an exchange.

SmartKey² is \$89.95, SmartPrint² is \$49.95. If you get both at the same time, the price is \$129.95.

As noted previously, C.I. Software has made their program HexPrintR[®] available to the membership. The price is \$39.00. This program works with WordStar to give you full control over your dot matrix printer.

In December, we reported the addition of the book on WordStar by Tony Bove and Cheryl Rhodes. This book is a must for anyone looking for assistance in using WordStar. The price of *Pocket Guide to WordStar* is \$7.25.

One of the most popular items in the FOG inventory is the T-shirts with the FOG logo. These T-shirts are soft Osborne blue in color and are Hanes 100% cotton. They are cut large to allow for shrinkage. Sizes available are small (34-36), medium (38-40), large (42-44), and X-large (46-48). The price is \$8.00 each (two for \$15.00).

We also have available...

which...

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the cost of...

Prices on the merchandise are as follows:

SmartKey2 only	\$89.95
SmartPrint2 only	\$49.95
SmartKey2/SmartPrint2	\$129.95
UNIFORM	\$69.95
HexPrintR	\$39.00
T-shirts	\$8.00
..... 2 for	\$15.00
WordStar Guide	\$7.25
Cassette Tapes	\$25.00
LIBRARY DIRECTORY	\$5.00
6" X 4.5" fresnel screen enlarger ..	\$19.95

To order any of these items, please send your payment to FOG, P. O. Box 3474, Daly City, CA, 94015-0474. Please include your membership-account number. If shipment cannot be made, your check will be returned. We cannot sell the manuals separately. Page two of this (or any) issue for information on ordering back issues of the *FOGHORN* or copies of the disk library. You may combine payment for any of these items with the payment for back issues, library disks, or membership fees. Doing so will save the staff considerable time.

The First Osborne Group (FOG) has been formed as a users' group for all persons who use or are interested in portable computers and/or the CP/M disk operating systems with related software. In September of 1984, there were about 14,000 members from around the world. Most attend meetings at over 300 locations. Computer systems owned or used by members included the Osborne 1 (single and double density), the Osborne Executive, all models of the Morrow Microdecision, the Zorba, all models of the KayPro, the PMC MicroMate, the Lobo Max, the Televideo, and many others. Special Interest Groups being organized to augment a network of local group meetings included dBASE II, ham radio, Personal Pearl, RBBS-RCP/M systems, etc.

Dues in FOG are \$24.00 per year. This entitles each member to a copy of the *FOGHORN* each month as well as access to the disk library and the RBBS-RCP/M systems. Local group meetings are open to the public without charge although access to the disk library and some other materials is restricted to the membership. The FOG library contains only software copyrighted for the public domain. Piracy (the copying of proprietary software) is strongly condemned.

In the United States, the *FOGHORN* is normally mailed by non-profit bulk mail. (FOG is a corporation in the state of California and has obtained its non-profit, tax exempt status from both the state and federal governments.) For those who live out of the U.S. or those who prefer first class delivery of their *FOGHORN*, additional postage must be added to the annual dues. See the chart on page 2 for details. Page 2 also contains most of the information for members (including how to obtain back issues).

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